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# ARAB TIMES



SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 1990/SHA'ABAN 28, 1410 AH

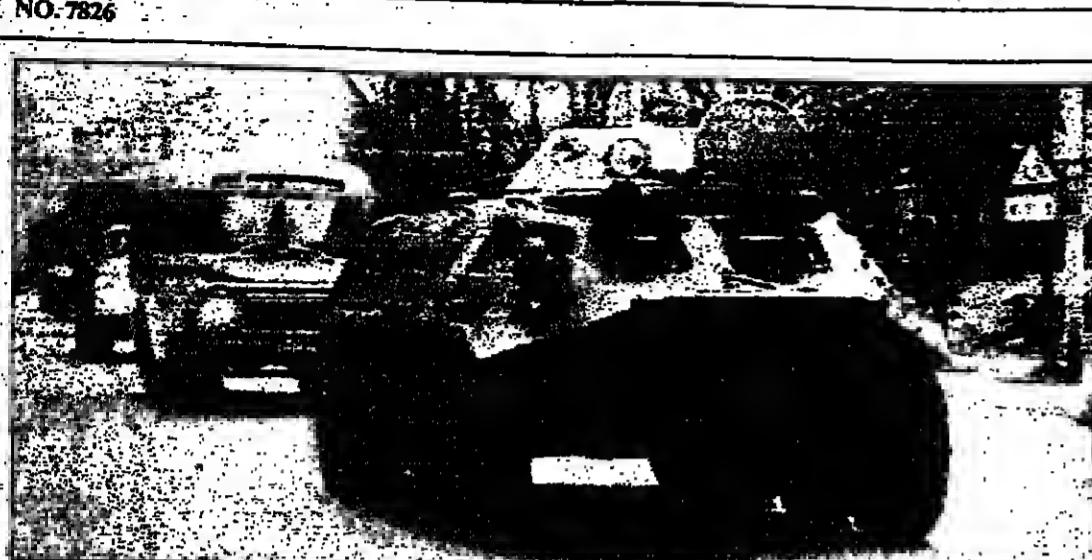
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## Arabian Year Book

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20 PAGES 150 FILS



An armoured personnel carrier rolls through the streets of Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, as part of a military convoy. (Reuters wirephoto)

## \$2b petro-chemical project Mega-plant approved

KUWAIT'S top planners yesterday approved a \$2 billion petrochemical complex aimed at increasing the Gulf state's revenue by boosting exports of refined products.

Officials said the Supreme Planning Council, headed by His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, approved the eight-plant complex after a three-hour meeting to review final plans.

Diplomats in Kuwait from several industrial nations were closely watching the outcome of Saturday's session. The project is expected to be open to international bidding.

The project, proposed by the state-run Kuwait Petroleum Corp., has been under discussion by the body over the past weeks, and was expected to be launched to international bidding shortly.

"The council has approved the project," Council Secretary-General Fouad Mulli Hussein told the Kuwait News Agency (Kuna).

Officials told Reuters the council

whose endorsement was crucial, approved the project after Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah addressed questions raised at a meeting earlier this month.

The communications minister attended the discussions concerning the proposal and answered all questions raised by the HPC members, who later approved the proposal and assigned the ministry to prepare the feasibility study, he added.

HPC secretary general points out that the council approved the memorandum by the general policies committee which dealt with the 4th annual report to follow up implementation of the five-year plan.

He said the council decided to submit the memo to the Council of Ministers.

For his part, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed informed the council on the outcome of meetings of the Arab foreign ministers held lately in the Arab League headquarters in Tunis.

Initial support for the project had

already been expressed by His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the Crown Prince, the Cabinet and the Higher Petroleum Council, officials said.

The complex will produce low and high density polyethylene, ethylene glycol, polystyrene, styrene monomer, styrene butadiene and aromatics.

Officials said it would spawn several associated industries.

Kuwait, one of the world's largest investors, has an extensive downstream network including five refineries, two of them in Western Europe, and some 5,000 petrol stations in Europe.

Last week it announced the purchase of Mobil Oil Italian SpA for some \$300 million.

The deal includes a 100,000 barrel per day (bpd) refinery in Naples, an adjoining aromatics plant and about 2,000 service stations, raising Kuwait's share of the Italian distribution network to 10.5 per cent from 3.5 per cent.

## India temple tragedy

### Firecrackers blast 25

NEW DELHI, March 24, (Agencies): At least 25 people were killed today when firecrackers exploded during a festival at a southern Indian temple, the Press Trust of India reported.

It said at least 77 people were hurt when the fireworks, intended to provide a colourful finale to a 10-day Hindu festival, caught fire and exploded. About 100,000 people were gathered for the display at Malanada, near Quilon, in the state of Kerala.

The agency said the firecrackers were stored in the temple and exploded after the man in charge of arranging the display went inside to fetch them.

The temple building collapsed in flames within minutes.

The agency quoted a top Kerala police official as saying most of the 25 bodies were charred beyond recognition.

PIT quoted officials as saying about 100,000 people had gathered in the outer portion of the temple and in surrounding paddy fields to witness the fireworks display scheduled to begin before dawn today.

## NEWSWATCH



### Beauty for booth

Gold Coast voters Karen Fitzsimmons and Janni Scott on their way to the Surfers Paradise polling booth in Australia's general election. (Reuters wirephoto)

**Rebel attacks:** Afghan rebels have attacked several strategic cities in the south of the country in what appeared to be the start of a mujahideen spring offensive, a government spokesman said on Saturday.

Government troops killed 39 rebels in fierce fighting around the besieged city of Khost today, acting Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nasib said.

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the battle. (Reuters wirephoto)

**Honecker homeless:** Disgraced former East German leader Erich Honecker on Saturday left the pastor's house where he has sheltered for the last two months only to be forced out of his new home by street protests.

The head of the government guest house north of Berlin where Honecker and his wife were due to move said a citizens' committee had decided to refuse the couple hospitality. (Reuters)

**PFLP plans party:** A radical Syrian-based PLO group, may set up a political party in Jordan, one of its members said today.

Deeb Marji, a member of the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) who was elected to Parliament in November, said PFLP leaders would decide whether to go ahead at a planned meeting in Amman on May. (Reuters)



### Statue floats

Statue of victory goddess Nike holds over the tower of the Reichstag building after being dismantled from top of Brandenburg Gate for restoration in Berlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Call for AL meeting

The Arab League will meet in Tunis on Monday at Iraq's request to counter international criticism of Iraq's execution of British-based journalist Farzad Bazoft, a League spokesman said on Saturday.

Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic has called off a visit to Baghdad at the Iraqi government's request because of Belgrade's criticism of the execution of Bazoft, diplomats said.

A plywood case containing the body of Bazoft is unloaded from the hold of a jumbo jet at Heathrow airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Weather

PARTLY cloudy weather with light to moderate northerly to northeasterly wind. State of sea: Moderate. High water: 10.00 am, 12.00 pm. Low water: 5.00 pm, 5.00 am. Sunrise: 5.46 am. Sunset: 6.02 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 25°C 86°F. Ahmad: 24°C 75°F. Faik: 25°C 77°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 18°C 64°F. Ahmad: 20°C 68°F. Faik: 19°C 66°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 25°C 86°F. Ahmad: 25°C 77°F. Faik: 25°C 79°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 62 per cent. Ahmad: 54 per cent. Faik: 52 per cent.



### Statue floats

Statue of victory goddess Nike holds over the tower of the Reichstag building after being dismantled from top of Brandenburg Gate for restoration in Berlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Soviet tanks thunder into Lithuania

VILNIUS, USSR. March 24: An armoured column of almost 100 Soviet tanks and military vehicles rolled through the heart of the Lithuanian capital early today in what apparently was another Kremlin bid to unnerve independence leaders.

Lithuanian lawmakers were in session about 100 metres (yards) from the path of the convoy, which rumbled along the main highway through the heart of Vilnius at about 4 am (0200 GMT). It didn't stop.

"We felt we were really in an occupied country," President Vytautas Landsbergis said afterward. "An alien power sent forces and we don't know why."

Official Lithuanian sources said the convoy contained at least 1,000

paratroopers armed with automatic weapons.

After the convoy roared through, the Lithuanian capital was quiet, and polls opened later for elections to local governing councils.

A deadline also passed for Lithuanian deserters to return to their Soviet military units with no sign that the deserters were being rounded up.

A spokesman for the Lithuanian Parliament said he had seen the convoy pull into a military base at Siaurus Miestelis on the north side of the capital.

Nervous legislators passed a resolution transferring power to the senior diplomat of their breakaway Baltic republic in Washington, DC. Stasys Lozoraitis Jr, in

case Moscow used force to take control of Lithuania or arrested its leaders.

"This is absurd, armoured vehicles don't usually drive through the middle of town in the middle of the night," Lithuanian Premier Kazimira Pruskeina told reporters at the Supreme Council legislature.

"We're not afraid, but we don't know what they want, and we don't know what they will do in the next few hours," she said.

After passing the resolution transferring power to the diplomat in Washington, several legislators walked about 100 metres (yards) from the legislative chambers to a highway overpass to watch the Soviet military column rumble through

the city.

The show of force today, the second since Thursday, left Lithuanian officials wondering what Gorbachev would do next.

On Thursday, in the first show of force, the Soviet military moved more than a dozen armoured personnel carriers and military trucks into Vilnius.

Moving the column into the Vilnius area early today increased pressure on the Lithuanian government by making it easier for Moscow to send troops quickly into action.

The information department of the republic's Supreme Council legislature  
(Continued on Page 2)

## Mubarak meets Assad ending twelve-year rift

### Arab leaders in display of unity with Libya

ROME, March 24, (AP): President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Hafez Assad of Syria met today for the first time since ending a 10-year rift between their countries, joining other Arab leaders in Libya, a news report said.

The leaders of Egypt, Syria, Sudan and Libya joined in a display of Arab unity for ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of the expulsion of British forces from Libya.

It is also the fourth anniversary of a Libyan confrontation with the United States Navy in the Gulf of Sirte.

The three Arab leaders are the first high-level visitors to Libya since Washington earlier this month revived allegations that Libya was producing chemical weapons at the Rabta factory, 80 km (50 miles) southwest of Tripoli.

A mysterious fire broke out at the plant on March 14 but it is not clear how much damage it did or who was responsible.



### Mystery illness

Nurses in Pristina hospital restrain a spasmodically thrashing ethnic Albanian girl, one of hundreds of Albanians rushed to hospital in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province with a mystery illness that has sparked ethnic clashes. (Reuters wirephoto) (See Page 4)

## It's another daughter for Fergie

LONDON, March 24, (Reuters): Britain's Duchess of York, popularly known as "Fergie," gave birth to a baby girl yesterday — a sister for 19-month-old Princess Beatrice.

The flame-haired Duchess and her 7lb 1-1/2 oz (3.2 kilo) daughter were both doing well, Buckingham Palace said.

Princess Andrew was present at the birth in a central London hospital after rushing from a British south coast port where the Royal Navy frigate on which he is serving is docked.

The new baby, sixth in line to the throne after her sister, was born by Caesarian section after it was found to be upside down in the breech position.

No name has been announced.

Princess Andrew, Queen Elizabeth's second son, emerged from the Portman Hospital and told crowds of reporters that mother and baby were "very well, fine. I will be back tomorrow."

Queen Elizabeth was said to be delighted at the birth of her sixth grandchild.

The Duchess' father, polo enthusiast Major Ronald Ferguson, told reporters outside his farmhouse in southern Britain: "I am delighted for the mother and daughter."

The birth came four hours after the Duchess was admitted to the hospital by a side door to avoid waiting

cameramen, many of whom had

camped on the pavement for days.

The traditional notice, posted on the railings outside Buckingham Palace, said: "Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York was safely delivered of a daughter at 7.58 pm (1958 GMT) today. Her Royal Highness and her child are well."

The birth was greeted by cheering from a small crowd of well-wishers outside the hospital, many of whom had brought champagne to celebrate the announcement.

The boisterous 30-year-old Duchess, who learned to fly helicopters after marrying Prince Andrew in 1986, has said she wants a large family although she finds it hard to combine motherhood with her royal duties.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Saudis arrest two British male nurses

RIYADH, March 24, (UPI): Two British male nurses are under arrest in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province in circumstances that are yet unclear. British embassy officials and other sources reported today.

The embassy did not identify the men or give any details. But the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the arrests took place about a week ago in Abqaiq near the kingdom's oil capital of Dhahran.

The sources were unclear about the reason for the arrests. Some contended the Britons were taking photographs in forbidden areas, others said the men were involved in pornographic video deals.

An embassy spokesman, who cannot be named

under embassy rules, said: "We're in touch with the Saudi authorities about the arrests. It is our understanding that the men have not been charged yet."

Last July, another British male nurse was jailed for dealing in contraband pornography. The arrest was not mentioned in the local media.

The usual procedure in Saudi Arabia for dealing with foreigners in such cases is to have them arraigned and tried, and then to deport them.

There are a number of British male nurses working at the British-run Al Fanar Hospital in Jubail, a petrochemical industry centre near Dhahran.

There are an estimated 3 million expatriates working in Saudi Arabia.

## UK imposes new curbs

LONDON, March 24, (AP): Britain on Thursday restricted rights of settlement for citizens of the 49 countries joined it in the Commonwealth of former colonies.

From May 1, immigrants who intend to work and had at least one grandparent born in Britain will have to live in Britain for four years to qualify for settlement instead of being granted it on arrival. The sum of money they must have to qualify as business or as persons of independent means have been increased by 33 percent.

## INTERNATIONAL



Seoul protest

South Korean union leaders wearing headbands reading 'Obtain Through Fighting' shout slogans criticising government labour policies. More than 2,500 members of the Federation of Korean Trade Union staged an anti-government rally in a Seoul plaza in Yoi-Do. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Kashmiri militants kidnap another CPI leader gunned down

SRINAGAR, March 24. (Reuter): A senior leader of the Communist Party of India was shot dead by suspected Kashmiri separatists and a Kashmiri politician was kidnapped in Srinagar, police said today.

They said two gunmen stormed the house of communist leader Abdus Sattar Ranjor in Keygam, 30 miles (50 km) south of the capital, about midnight on Friday and shot him.

None of the approximately 30 militant groups fighting for Kashmir's independence from India has so far claimed responsibility for the killing.

Police said Mir Mustafa, an independent member of the dissolved Jammu and Kashmir state assembly, was kidnapped by suspected militants from a Srinagar suburb today.

The suspected militants stopped Mustafa's car, beat up his driver and took him away in their own vehicle.

No group has claimed responsibility for the abduction and Mustafa's whereabouts were not known. The security forces were

## Singh declines comment

NEW DELHI, March 24. (UPI): Prime Minister V.P. Singh declined to comment today on reports that three brothers of an Indian arms-dealing family in London controlled a Swiss bank account into which A.B. Bosor of Sweden deposited alleged payoffs.

Singh, asked by reporters at an official function about the report in today's editions of several major dailies, said it would "not be fair" to comment because an investigation into the scandal was still underway.

Bosor has been accused of paying millions of dollars in kickbacks to Indian officials in return for a \$1.3 billion contract in 1986 to sell 400 howitzers to the Indian Army.

Singh praised the Central Bureau of Investigation for progress it has made in advancing the probe, including the freezing of six secret Swiss bank accounts and obtaining the assistance of Swiss authorities in the case.

He took a swing at his predecessor, Rajiv Gandhi, asking why his administration had not taken similar steps aimed at verifying allegations that Bosor had paid kickbacks.

Put on red alert and a hunt launched for the politician.

Mustafa, 73, played a key role as a go-between in December when Indian Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's daughter was kidnapped by members of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

She was freed in exchange for five militants detained by the government.

JKLF is at the forefront of the campaign for Kashmir's independence which was intensified in January. More than 200 people have been killed in clashes between militants and security forces since January.

Police, police informers and government officials are the main targets of the militants and Ranjor is the first communist politician to be killed in the valley.

## Imelda doodles while jury pool slowly fills

NEW YORK, March 24. (UPI): Former Philippines first lady Imelda Marcos battled the drudgery of jury selection in her racketeering trial yesterday by sketching the faces of the men and women who could decide her fate.

Imelda, clad in black in mourning the death of her husband, deposed Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos, while away the fourth day of jury selection by doodling into a notepad as the judge questioned prospective jurors.

Her alleged co-conspirator, Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi, looked equally bored, but sat impassively in his chair, smiling once at a juror who told the court she recognised Khashoggi, once described as the richest man in the world, from the television show, "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous."

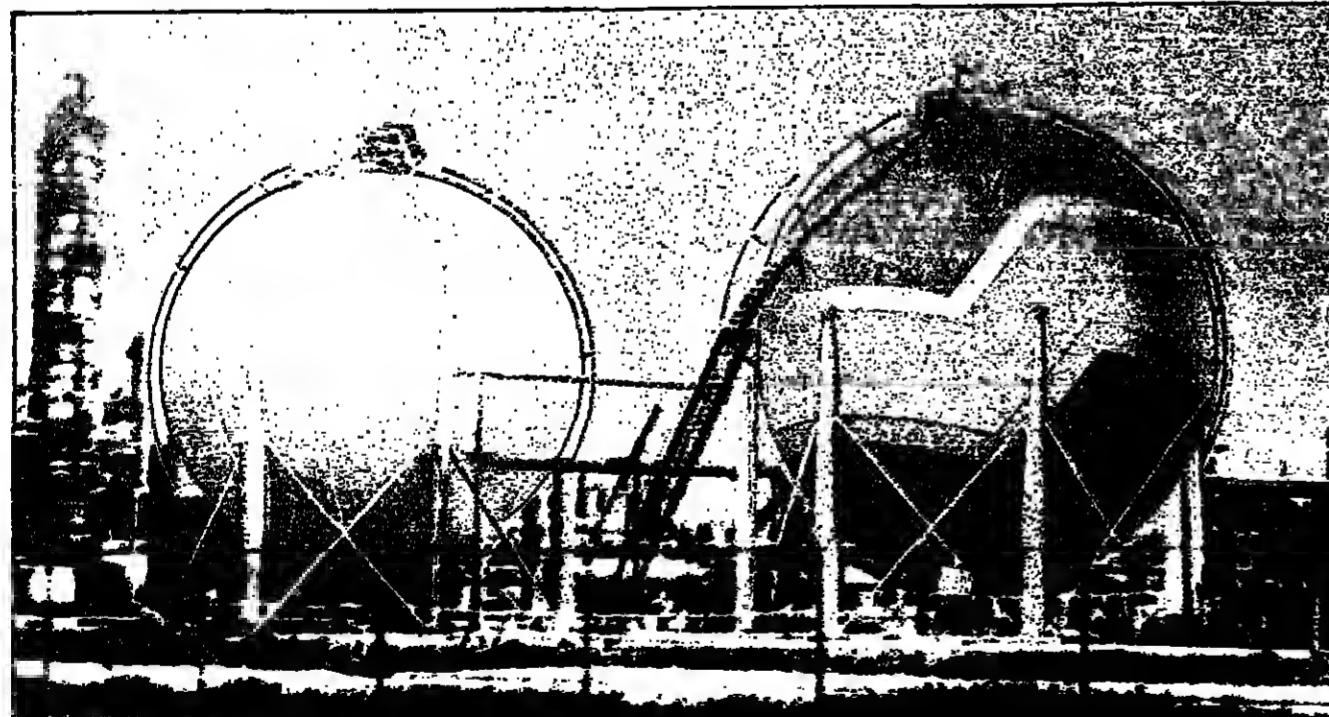
Imelda, 60, is accused of plotting a \$345 million racketeering scheme with her husband to siphon money from her native land's treasury. Prosecutors say Marcos, with Khashoggi's help, transferred more than \$160 million from the Philippines and invested it in Manhattan real estate.

Seven women and seven men were added to the pool of potential panelists yesterday, bringing to 45 the number of people selected. Jury selection was to resume Tuesday.

A pool of about 60 people had originally been sought, from which a final panel of 12 jurors and six alternates would be selected to hear the case.

As jury selection continued yesterday, however, US district judge John Keenan said he may settle for a pool of as few as 50, adding that any lower number would be "very dangerous."

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Quality and Service Quality and Service

# Separatist calls appear in Xinjiang

BEIJING, March 24. (Agencies): Leaflets calling for an end to Chinese rule have appeared in China's westernmost region, an official from the area said today, in the latest sign of unrest in the Xinjiang autonomous region.

Amudun Niyazi, chairman of the Xinjiang People's Congress Standing Committee, said handbills, leaflets and other materials "instigating separatist activities" had been discovered circulating in the region.

In January, the region's armed police were ordered to intensify anti-training

Niyazi said there had been no ethnic violence in Xinjiang, which is home to 25 different minority groups making up nearly two-thirds of the population.

But the past few months news reports from Xinjiang have hinted of trouble. Editorials and commentaries stressing the need for unity and stability and denouncing "separatist" activities have increased markedly.

In January, the region's armed police were ordered to intensify anti-training

and intelligence work to prevent unrest.

Among the largest groups in Xinjiang are the Muslim Uygur and Kazak minorities, Central Asian ethnic groups with close ties to people living across the border in the Soviet Union.

Xinjiang's delegates to the National People's Congress, holding its annual session in Beijing this week, were quoted by the Xinjiang daily earlier this month as saying the region has "a small number of separatists, who present the greatest threat

Xinjiang's stability. The delegates called the separatists "the scum of the Chinese people" and said they were acting under the guise of advocating religious freedom and democracy.

"We must be on the alert," the delegates were quoted as saying.

Leaders of Xinjiang today accused foreign activists of using Islam to whip up unrest there, even smuggling propaganda across the border in copies of the Holy Quran.

# Hawke predicts narrow victory

## Claims right to form caretaker govt

SYDNEY, March 24. (Reuters): Central ministers P. Upendra, M. S. Gurupadaswamy, M. G. K. Menon and Raja Ramanna were among those elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from different states this week.

Information Minister Upendra was elected from Andhra Pradesh, while Petroleum Minister Gurupadaswamy and Minister of State for Defence, Ramanna, were returned from Uttar Pradesh. Minister of state for science and technology was elected from Rajasthan.

Also elected from Uttar Pradesh

was Makatma Gandhi's grandson, Rajmohan Gandhi, who had fought unsuccessfully against former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi from Amethi in the November general elections.

Well-known industrialist K.K. Birla was a second term in the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan as a Congress (I) nominee. The former maharaja of Jodhpur, Gaj Singh, was elected as an independent candidate from the state.

Besides Upendra, others elected from Andhra Pradesh were Janata Dal spokesman S. Jaipal Reddy and R.K. Dhawan, an aide to Rajiv Gandhi, who was one of the Congress candidates. T. Chandrashekhar Reddy, M. M. Hashim and N. P. Kotiah (all Congress) were the others elected from Andhra Pradesh.

In Maharashtra, four Congress

candidates and one each of the Janata Dal, BJP and Star Sena were elected unopposed. They are former union finance minister S.B. Chavhan, Finance Commission chairman O. R. Patle, Jagdish Desai and Congress general secretary Ghulam Nabi Azad (all Congress), Bapu Kaladgi (Janata Dal) industrialist Virendra Shah (BJP) and former state minister Chandrika Konia (Shiv Sena).

Dr. J. K. Jain of the BJP was

declared elected unopposed from Madhya Pradesh in the by-election caused by the resignation of party president L. K. Advani, who was elected to the Lok Sabha last November.

In Gujarat, there are five candidates

in the fray for the biennial elections to be held on March 29. They included sitting member Chimanbhai Mehta (Janata Dal) and former state Congress president Ahmed Patel.

Union Law Minister Dinesh

Gowarikar is among the seven candidates seeking election to the Rajya Sabha from Assam.

In Meghalaya, there will be a

straight fight for the one seat between sitting Congress member J. E. Tariang and former diplomat and Lok Sabha deputy speaker G. G. Swell.

With most of the votes on the

brightly-populated east coast

counted, the outcome depended

on results in three marginal seats

in Western Australia where the

count started two hours later

because of the time difference

across the continent.

Despite a strong showing in

the state of Victoria where the

swing against Labour was about

11 per cent, the Liberals had

mixed fortunes elsewhere.

They lost one Sydney seat to

local politician Ted Mack who

becomes the first independent in

the federal parliament for 25

years. Analysts said it was possi-

ble Mack could hold the balance

of power in a hung parliament.

More than five hours after the

polls closed in most of the coun-

try. Labour spokesmen were claiming they held 72 of the 148 lower house seats, just short of an absolute majority.

Both parties agreed the final results would not be known to-night.

Labour's National Secretary Bob Hogg said: "I'm quiet confident. I think we will get through."

Opposition Liberal Party leader Andrew Peacock commented: "It's a bit too close to call at the moment. It's going to be a long night."

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## PEOPLE AND PLACES

OSLO, Norway: Elie Wiesel, winner of the 1986 Nobel peace prize, will bring together other Nobel laureates, human rights champions and statesmen in a conference to evaluate the darker side of the spread of democracy.

Wiesel organised the conference to assess the risk of long-suppressed hatreds surfacing to societies that abruptly became free. The gathering, set for August 26-29, will be arranged with the Norwegian Nobel Institute, Wiesel spokesman said Monday.

Among 35 leaders to accept invitations so far are 1983 peace prize winner Lech Walesa of Poland, French President Francois Mitterrand, Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel, former US President Jimmy Carter and Harvard economist John Kenneth Galbraith.

Wiesel won the Nobel Prize for his writings examining the holocaust. (AP)

NASHVILLE, Tennessee: Country music stars Emmylou Harris and Ricky Skaggs say a bill that would require warning labels on music encouraging sex, suicide or violence would have a chilling effect on songwriters.

"You might succeed in eliminating some of this trash out there... but it also is going to have to inhibit the good stuff," Ms Harris, head of the Country Music Foundation, told the state senate judiciary committee Tuesday. "I think we'd be paying a really terrible price."

Staggs, president of the Country Music Association, predicted the labelling would spread to books. (AP)

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania: Andrea Hepburn will team up with a symphony orchestra to tell the story of holocaust victim Anne Frank.

Miss Hepburn said she identified closely with the girl who remained innocent hopes for the world despite her own predicament.

Miss Hepburn was born the same year as Miss Frank and lived in Holland during the war. (AP)



## Expedition

British Geoff Sommers, Japanese Keizo Funatsu, Frenchman Jean-Louis Etienne, American Will Steger, Soviet Viktor Bayarsky, and Chinese Dahe Qin (left-right) the six members of the Transantarctic expedition pose before the Elysee Palace on March 21 with French President Francois Mitterrand. Sam and Penda are the two huskies which took part in the expedition. The six men with six huskies crossed the Antarctic from Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean, a total of 6,400 kms. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Monkeys need entry papers for US

NEW YORK, March 24, (UPI): Monkeys arriving at John F. Kennedy international airport from overseas will need to have papers showing they're free of the deadly ebola virus. New York state health officials said.

Observers likened the action to a de facto ban on the importation of monkeys for biomedical research. About 20,000 monkeys are imported annually into the United States, 80 per cent of them through New York City.

Effective yesterday, persons bringing monkeys of the cynomolgus, African green, and rhesus species from overseas must show proof the animals were quarantined for 60 days before shipment and tested negative for antibodies to filovirus, the state Health Department said Wednesday.

ARLINGTON, Texas: Karla Taylor specializes in painting landscapes dotted with majestic clouds. She does them on people's ceilings. Stars and moons are all right; but no cars and no balloons.

"I had a request to do balloons," she said. "I knew that was not going to look good. All you would see would be the bottom of the balloon."

Her parents might well be to blame for her artistic proclivities.

"When I was a kid, I wanted to be a policeman or a cowboy and I got the white hat," Moore said Saturday night as he was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame's Hall of Great Western Performers.

"I will always wear it because I believe in the good guys," Moore also paid tribute to the late Jay Silverheels, who played Tonto on Lone Ranger. (AP)

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma: Clayton Moore says playing the Lone Ranger on the long-running television series fulfilled a childhood dream.

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"I will always wear it because I believe in the good guys," Moore also paid tribute to the late Jay Silverheels, who played Tonto on Lone Ranger. (AP)

LISBON, Portugal: Portugal's navy rescued 14 fishermen who were adrift for 12 hours in a life raft on choppy seas Tuesday after their boat sank off the Madeira Islands, a news agency reported.

The fishermen were unharmed. They were brought aboard the patrol boat Cunha after their inflatable raft was spotted by an air-sea rescue plane, according to the Lusa news agency. (AP)

## Puppy

## Saved from python fangs

JOHANNESBURG, March 24, (AP): A farm couple saved a seven-day-old puppy from the belly of a python when they heard faint yelping from inside the snake and forced it to cough up the pet, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Magenta and Leonie Botha, interviewed by the Star newspaper, said they heard their dog barking frantically outside her kennel on the farm near Neelspruit, 25 kilometers (15 miles) west of the Kruger National Park. The python was curled up inside the kennel, and the couple said they heard faint yelps.

"I jumped forward, grabbed the snake by its neck and pulled it out," Botha said. While his wife held the snake's tail, Botha said he shook the head up and down and rubbed its bulging stomach. The reptile's jaws gaped, and out came the three puppies.

Botha and Oosten belted out their latest single, "Starting All Over Again." Whitney Houston delighted the crowd with a charged rendition of "The Greatest Love of All" and Patti Smith sang a moody version of "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall" at Saturday's five-hour concert in Radio City Music Hall.

Artists and guest hosts repeatedly reminded the enthusiastic crowd of their reason for attending, with Jennifer Holliday dedicating a song to Broadway director and playwright Michael Bennett who died of AIDS in 1987. (AP)

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania: A high school biology teacher received a love bite from an amorous 175-pound (79-kilogramme) male dolphin.

Ms Sakach, 32, received several stings on her finger, but did not harbour ill feelings toward the dolphin. His natural instincts had just taken over, she said. (AP)

LILLE, France: About 30 anti-abortion protesters were led away by police Tuesday after forcing their way into the operating section of a hospital where abortions are performed.

More than half the protesters shut themselves inside an operating room of Hertie Hospital and wrote anti-abortion graffiti on the walls while their comrades blocked the entrance to the room. (AP)

## Workplaces in US are health hazards

WASHINGTON, March 24, (UPI): Nearly 1.5 million Americans are exposed to a health hazard in the workplace that they can't see, smell or hear. But it certainly can be felt.

Vibration may seem harmless. After all, at low levels it can be used to massage tense muscles. However, frequent exposure to the quivering and shaking of power tools may cause a debilitating "whitefinger" disorder that in severe cases may require finger amputation.

In a recent report on "hand-arm vibration syndrome," the national institute for occupational safety and health estimates half of the American workers using jack hammers, chain saws, grinders, drills and other vibrating power tools will develop the distressing condition.

The most obvious sign of the syndrome is the appearance of unusual white splotches on the fingers. At first, attacks of blanching, numbness or tingling are occasional and affect just the tips of one or more fingers.

If exposure to vibration is not reduced, attacks become more frequent and the numbness more persistent. Eventually, most fingers are affected along their entire lengths.

At the most severe stage, skin and tissue may die — forcing the amputation of fingers.

"The symptoms have appeared in two or three months in some people. Others, under

the same situation, may take 20 years to develop or they may never get it. What the difference is between people, nobody knows," said Austin Henschel, a physiologist at Niosh's Cincinnati office and developer of the report.

Hand-arm vibration syndrome is caused by two factors — constriction of blood vessels in the hands and a degeneration of peripheral nerves, Henschel said in a telephone interview. Variables that influence the disease as it progresses include intensity of tool vibration, length of daily use, cumulative exposure and tool design.

Studies cited in the federal report the prevalence of the disorder varies widely, with anywhere from 6 per cent to 100 per cent of workers studied showing symptoms. The average rate was about 50 per cent.

Henschel issued one caution about interpreting such statistics. He said hand-arm vibration syndrome is virtually indistinguishable from Raynaud's phenomenon, a condition which affects about 5 per cent of the general population and is caused by exposure to cold or emotional stress.

Workers showing high rates of hand-arm vibration syndrome included pedestal grinders at foundries, jack-leg drill operators in mines and those using chipping hammers in quarries, steel plants and shipyards.



## Hopes for Beatles reunion

Cynthia Lennon, John Lennon's first wife, poses in the hallway of the Plaza Hotel in New York, March 22. Cynthia said that she hoped a long-awaited Beatles reunion would

finally happen this year at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate. (Reuter wirephoto)

## English boy hopes to break card record

ATLANTA, Georgia, March 24, (UPI): A terminally ill 7-year-old English boy is trying to break the world record for number of sympathy cards received, the Atlanta-based Children's Wish Foundation said.

Arthur Stein, president of the organization, said his group is trying to help Craig Shergold of Cumbria, England, break the record of 1,000,265 cards held by Mario Morby of Midland, England.

Stein said the foundation has been receiving cards for Shergold, who suffers from brain tumours, for about five weeks. He said the group hopes to receive enough cards to

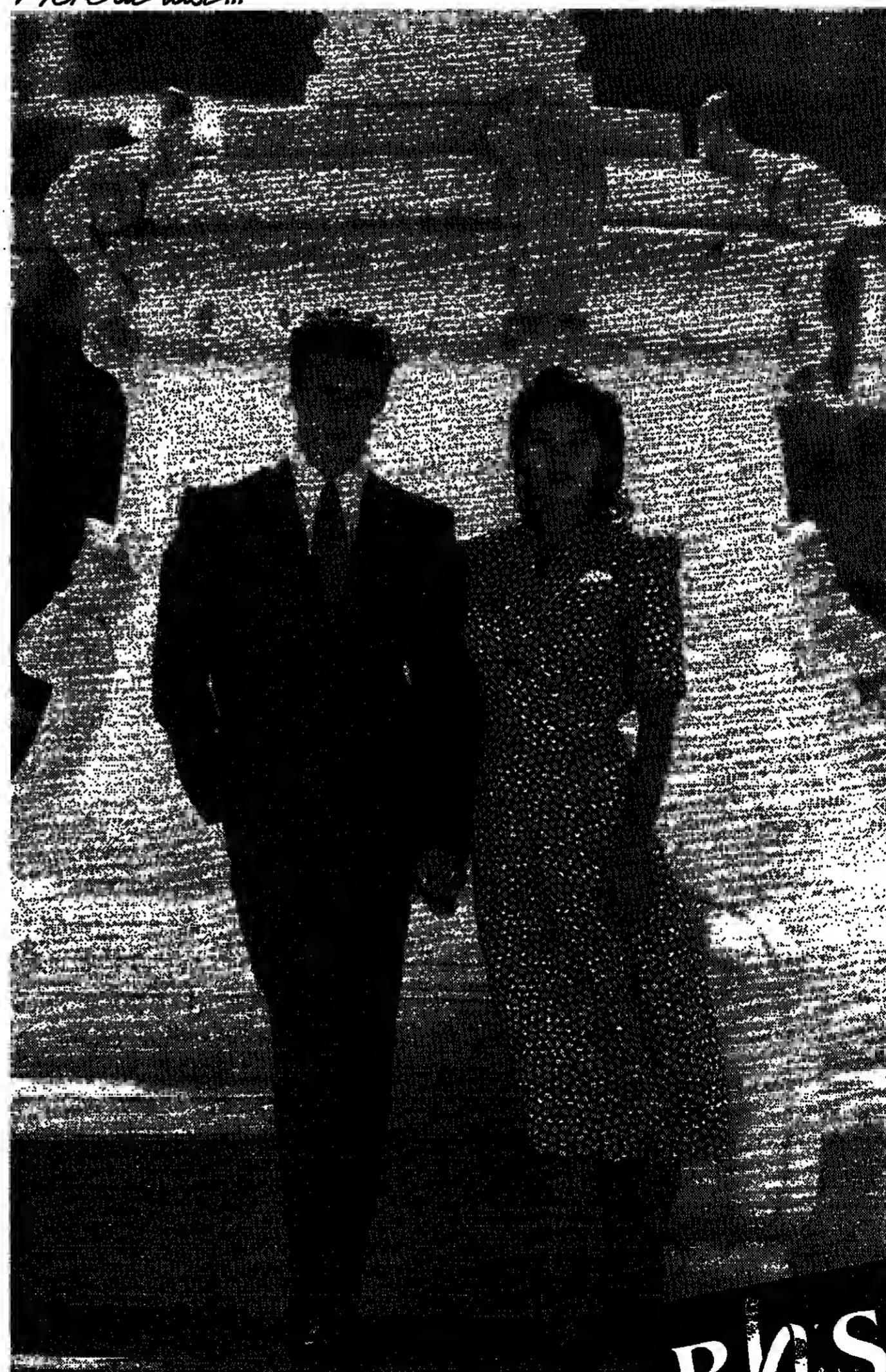
break the record by May 1.

The cards will be shipped in bulk to the youth's home at the foundation's expense at the end of May, said Stein.

He said he did not know the number of cards that have been received, but the post office estimates that between 8,000 and 10,000 cards a day are coming in. Officials from the Guinness Book of World Records will count the cards to determine if they break the record, he said.

The foundation heard of Shergold's wish through a corporation that prefers to remain anonymous, Stein said.

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NEW YORK: Faye Dunaway says her memorable portrayal of Joan Crawford in the 1981 film "Mommie Dearest" was one of the big mistakes of her career.

"I should have done the Crawford role," Dunaway said in the April issue of "Fame." "My actor friends feel it was a real performance. But in fact, it was carried too far and it got too camp."

Her latest role is that of the wealthy but sterile wife of a military leader in "The Handmaid's Tale."



## Andrew in time

The Duke of York waves to waiting photographers as he arrives at the Portland Hospital in London on March 23 in preparation for the birth of his second child. The Duchess of York went into the hospital yesterday afternoon. (Reuter wirephoto)

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# Hungary polls may result in coalition

BUDAPEST, March 24, (Agencies): A week after a conservative landslide in East Germany, Hungary seals its transition from communist rule in Western-style democracy tomorrow with its first free national elections since 1945.

More than 1,600 candidates from 27 parties are competing in the parliamentary elections, which will be decided only after a second round slated for April 8, for 386 seats.

The outcome seems certain to be a coalition government excluding the ruling Socialist Party, founded last October to succeed the Communist Party, which was largely responsible for launching the

reforms in Hungary that also spread through East Europe.

Opinion polls suggest a close race for first place between the centre-right Hungarian Democratic Forum and the Alliance of Free Democrats, a liberal-social democratic party founded by dissidents who kept free debate alive under communism.

But the rural right-wing independent Smallholders' Party, a likely key to a coalition government, has gained ground fast by promises to return farmland seized by the Communist Party after it took power in the late 1940s.

"It is clear and unambiguous that we

are going to score a landslide victory," the party's legal officer and campaign manager Jozsef Torgyan told Reuters today, a day of campaign-free reflection before the Sunday vote.

"It will be impossible to govern without us and we are going to be the leading power of the government," he said.

The Alliance and the Forum were more low-key, but both also expressed cautious confidence.

"Based on recent opinion polls, we think we will be the first party," Alliance executive Gabor Demszky said at a news conference. "But we are prepared for surprises."

Voting begins at six am (0400 GMT) and is due to close at most places 12 hours later, with the possibility of two-hour extensions where turnout is below 50 per cent.

Earliest results are expected late on Sunday evening.

Irene Pozsgay, who was the prime mover of political change in Hungary, faces certain defeat in Sunday's free elections—but he is prepared to play stoically the cards that history has dealt him.

"I have fallen between two stools, but I will get up from the floor. History will not end on March 25," the 56-year-old state minister said.



A girl draped herself in the flag of Hungary's reborn Social Democratic Party.

# Troops move into Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, March 24, (Reuters): Armoured cars rumbled into the outskirts of five towns in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province today after two days of clashes over a mystery illness afflicting 1,000 ethnic Albanians.

Witnesses said troops took posts around towns where ethnic Albanians had attacked minority Serbs and Montenegrins, charging that their relatives had been victims of a mass poisoning. At least 40 people have been hurt, nausea, stomach cramps and breathing problems.

Tanjug said ethnic Albanian workers were also claiming to have fallen ill with the mystery disease and "most of the incapacitated in the province reported the ... alleged poisoning."

Opposition leaders claimed the symptoms were caused by poisoning with an unidentified chemical.

Some 4,000 ethnic Albanians staged a demonstration in Podujevo, on Thursday, to protest against the alleged poisoning, which they said was an organised Serbian attack on them.

The Republic of Serbia, which controls Kosovo, has taken direct control of the police in Podujevo and Vučitrn, and a Serbian official said the republic would take similar action on Monday in whatever towns it deemed necessary.

Disturbances erupted when ethnic Albanians ran amok on Thursday after hundreds of their children complained of stomach cramps, nausea and breathing problems.

The southern province appeared relatively quiet today and no new cases of the illness were reported.

# Lothar wants to become premier

EAST BERLIN, March 24, (Agencies): Lothar de Maiziere, East Germany's likely new premier, today reiterated his offer to form a coalition with Social Democrats and said monetary union with West Germany will occur by summer.

In an interview with West Germany's newspaper *Welt Am Sonntag*, de Maiziere also said the country will elect a candidate to become East Germany's first non-communist premier. He also denied allegations that he had collaborated with the hated Communist Stasi secret police.

De Maiziere is the head of the Christian Democratic Union, which swept to victory on Sunday in the first free ballot after four decades of communist rule.

In the interview, released by *Welt Am Sonntag* in advance of publication, de Maiziere said monetary union with West Germany will have to come by the summer so that East Germans can travel with the right money in their pockets.

The monetary union would replace East Germany's non-convertible currency with West Germany's powerful mark.

Excavations at a wood near the northern town of Neubrandenburg have revealed tattered layers of skeletons, including children as young as 12, who perished in the nearby Stalinist internment camp of Fuchsleben as the Red Army advanced on Berlin in 1945.

"Stalinist terror as practised here was no different from what the Nazis did. It hit the guilty and innocent alike," said historian Dieter Krueger. "This wood is a

grave discovered in East Germany."

EAST BERLIN, March 24, (Reuters): An East German historian has uncovered a secret mass grave where thousands of victims of Stalin's security police were buried at the end of World War Two, the Berliner Zeitung reported today.

The grave was discovered in a wood near the northern town of Neubrandenburg, and it has been revealed tattered layers of skeletons, including children as young as 12, who perished in the nearby Stalinist internment camp of Fuchsleben as the Red Army advanced on Berlin in 1945.

"Stalinist terror as practised here was no different from what the Nazis did. It hit the guilty and innocent alike," said historian Dieter Krueger. "This wood is a

grave discovered in East Germany."

The West German government also said it believes the currency union can be completed by summer.

De Maiziere said the presidential system inherited from the ousted communist government will be scrapped, and the country should elect a president who enjoys wide support.

Under the Communist government, the head of the Communist Party traditionally also chaired the so-called state council, the largely ceremonial post of head of state.

De Maiziere also renewed his coalition offer to the Social Democrats. Such a broad coalition would enable the government to speed the process of unification.

As chairman of the strongest party, de Maiziere is widely expected to become head of government. But he has been dogged by allegations that he collaborated with the secret police, the state suppression agency of the communist regime that was toppled by peaceful revolt in October.

De Maiziere, 50, repeatedly denied any links with the Stasi beyond his normal work as lawyer.

De Maiziere's CDU heads a three-party Alliance for Gen-

eral elections, and its allies favour quick unification and introduction of a free-market system.

Although the Alliance for Germany won the election, it does not have a majority in the 400-seat parliament and needs a coalition partner to ensure its initiatives will pass smoothly.

cover Eastern Europe and North America. Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union already have acquired status as the only European organisations flexible enough to adapt quickly, Ms Lalamure said.

"Most delegates said it was ridiculous to create a new code and control mechanism, because one already exists," Ms Lalamure told a news conference after the first day's meeting.

The council's 1990 Human Rights Convention already protects individual Europeans with a sophisticated commission and court mechanism, and its proponents argue it could be easily extended to include Eastern European nations that eventually would settle down peacefully.

# Be capitalists: US

Eastern Europe urged to embrace policy

BONN, March 24, (Reuters): The United States has urged Eastern European countries to embrace capitalism, saying they should become multi-party democracies and enshrine respect for private property and free enterprise in their laws.

US officials made the appeal in a confidential paper "Bonn principles for economic co-operation," distributed at a 15-nation East-West

economic conference here this week. Washington hopes the paper, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, will form the basis of a communiqué from the three-week talks, which are an offshoot of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) grouping all European countries except Albania plus the United States and Canada.

A West European delegate said the document had been given a generally favourable reception, but was unlikely to be adopted by the conference without substantial amendments.

The US paper says participating states should share the objectives of "multi-party democracy based on free, periodic and general elections," the rule of law, respect for human rights, free and competitive markets, and dynamic private enterprise.

It lists measures it says are essential for the development of a sound economy, including "full recognition and protection of rights of citizens to hold and use private property."

The paper also recommends making currencies convertible and privatising and deregulating industry.

The European Economic Community put forward its own proposals for a final document earlier in the week, calling for far-reaching reform of all aspects of commercial life in Eastern Europe.

Half of the four-page US document is devoted to the reformist countries of Eastern Europe, which it describes as "economies in transition."

It urges them to strengthen private enterprise and ensure economic activity does not involve forced labour, or discrimination against workers on political, ethnic, gender or religious grounds.

The head of the US delegation, Alan Holmer, said at the opening of the conference on Monday that the changes under way in countries moving from a command system to a mixed or free economy were difficult for everyone.

"We feel we are in an occupied country. A foreign army arrives and we do not know what it will do," Landbergis told the Supreme Council several hours after 100 military vehicles passed on their way through the capital of the rebel republic.

Landbergis' warning came amid signs of an escalation of what he described as a "war of nerves" waged by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev against Lithuania since it reasserted its pre-war independence on March 11.

Through half a century of international oblivion, Lithuania has maintained a diplomatic presence in the United States through a legation headquartered about 15 blocks up the street from the Soviet embassy.

Shevardnadze to become 'VP'

KUWAIT, March 24, (Kuwa): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who was elected president of the Soviet Union last week, will appoint Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze as his vice-president within the coming few days, a local daily said today.

Anthony Litton had been halfway through a two-year burglary sentence at Cardiff prison South Wales when he walked out of prison Tuesday.

Police said he was caught in a friend's house 15 miles (24 kilometres) from the prison.

CARDIFF, Wales, March 24, (AP): A convict who escaped from prison by swapping clothes with his identical twin was back behind bars yesterday — and so was his brother.

Anthony Litton had been halfway through a two-year burglary sentence at Cardiff prison South Wales when he walked out of prison Tuesday.

Police said he was caught in a friend's house 15 miles (24 kilometres) from the prison.

working paper suggested. It was presented at the start of a two-day special session with diplomats from seven East European countries.

Portuguese diplomats said most delegates appeared to support the suggestions, though some spoke out for creating new institutions within the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the organisation that put forward the Helsinki accords.

Founded in 1949, the Council of Europe has been largely overshadowed by the more influential European Economic Community, a separate 12-nation trading bloc based in Brussels, Belgium.

# Defiant Maggie won't budge

LONDON, March 24, (Agencies): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher defiantly insists she will not back down from her unpopular economic policies despite a crushing defeat by the opposition Labour Party in a key parliamentary by-election.

The Republic of Serbia, which controls Kosovo, has taken direct control of the police in Podujevo and Vučitrn, and a Serbian official said the republic would take similar action on Monday in whatever towns it deemed necessary.

Thatcher's Conservative Party was plunged into crisis yesterday after Labour turned in its best by-election performance for more than half a century to win the central English constituency of Mid-Staffordshire.

Labour won the seat with a 21 per cent swing away from the Conservatives — an almost exact reversal of the result in the constituency in the 1987 general election.

Labour seized on the government's humiliating defeat in a traditional stronghold as evidence that cracks were beginning to show in Thatcher's 11-year domination of British political life.

Thatcher herself said voters had sent the government a message about the impact of high interest rates and the government's new community charge or "poll tax" to fund local services.

Britain has been shocked in recent weeks by a series of violent demonstrations against the poll tax in which protesters have clashed with police.

"These matters are naturally of concern to us all," she said in a letter to Conservative Party Chairman Kenneth Baker.

But she added: "We are not a fair-weather party. We are not for trimming and taming.

"We believe in long-term policies of the kind we have implemented so successfully over the last 11 years."

The by-election defeat raised renewed speculation about Thatcher's continued leadership of the Conservatives.

In recent days she has brushed aside rumours of a party plot to topple her and vowed to fight "every inch of the way" to win a fourth successive general election.

Opinion polls have shown the government is losing support because of public concern over the interest rates and the poll tax.

A national survey taken for the British Broadcasting Corporation on Thursday gave Labour a 21-point lead over the government — the Conservatives' worst rating since the last general election.

Conservative cabinet ministers were mobilised yesterday to press home the message that the government's difficulties were only temporary.

"We shall get out of it by clear thought and steady action, and under the leadership of the prime minister," Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said.

Conservative spokesman said the Mid-Staffordshire voters had taken the opportunity to register a protest and would return to the fold in time for the next general election. Thatcher does not have to call this until mid-1992.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock, while accepting that one by-election victory had to be treated with some caution as a pointer to his party's national fortunes, brushed aside the protest vote theory.

"You show me an election anywhere in the world where protest doesn't play a part," he said.

Shevardnadze to become 'VP'

LISBON, Portugal, March 24, (AP): Officials from the 23-nation Council of Europe debated yesterday ways of raising the institution's profile and helping Eastern Europe's fledgling democracies.

The idea to meet East bloc perestroika with a new look for the oldest postwar organisation working for European unity was presented by the Strasbourg-based council's secretary-general, Catherine Lalamure and its current chairman, Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro.

Founded in 1949, the Council of Europe has been largely overshadowed by the more influential European Economic Community, a separate 12-nation trading bloc based in Brussels, Belgium.

But with the rush toward democracy in Eastern Europe and changes facing the European map with German unification, it has gained stature as the only European organisation flexible enough to adapt quickly.

"Most delegates said it was ridiculous to

create a new code and control mechanism, because one already exists," Ms Lalamure told a news conference after the first day's meeting.

The council's 1990 Human Rights Convention already protects individual Europeans with a sophisticated commission and court mechanism, and its proponents argue it could be easily extended to include Eastern European nations that eventually would settle down peacefully.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Bulgaria arms trade: Bulgaria has been involved in international weapons trade, supplying arms to liberation movements and Third World and communist countries, a newspaper reported Friday.

In an interview with the official trade union newspaper, Trud, Ivan Damyanov, the director of the state-run Kintex Enterprise, said that sales of military hardware abroad accounted for 55 per cent of the company's production.

... Powell: danger not yet over: The top military officer in the United States on Friday injected a note of caution into the euphoria sweeping Eastern Europe, where democracy is spreading at a rapid pace.

The world still remains a very unstable place, a dangerous place," General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said after addressing a public forum.

He told the meeting that while the United States should restructure its armed forces in light of world events and the diminished Soviet threat, the danger of conflict was not over. (Reuters)

Be loyal to socialism, rivals told: A senior Mongolian official said on Saturday new opposition parties should be loyal to socialism one day after the country scrapped the Communist Party's monopoly of power.

Opposition groups accused the government of cheating on promises of democracy and said they would hold more mass protests to demand the dissolution of parliament.

Byragnin Chimed, a leading member of the parliament, told a news conference that the country's first election law, passed as parliament finished a session on Friday, stipulated that politics and elections would be conducted on a socialist basis. (Reuters)

WMO celebrates anniversary: Professor Godwin O. Obasi, secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Friday highlighted the vital role played by the national meteorological and

## Rocard for Elysee

PARIS, March 24, (UPI): Aides of Prime Minister Michel Rocard were jubilant yesterday after President Francois Mitterrand was quoted as effectively designating the moderate Socialist as his intended successor to the Elysee Palace, dealing a severe blow to the hopes of rival Laurent Fabius.

Serge Littton, editor-in-chief of the left-leaning newspaper *Liberation*, quoted Mitterrand on Thursday as saying in an exclusive interview that Rocard would be "the only socialist in a situation



Colombian nuns overcome with grief, weep over the coffin of slain presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo (Reuter wirephoto)

## Escobar denies role in killing

BOGOTA, March 24, (Reuter): Fugitive Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar yesterday denied the government's contention that he was behind the assassination of leftist presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo.

Security was strengthened in the capital Bogota, yesterday following demonstrations by protesters accusing the government itself of complicity in Jaramillo's murder. Riot police used tear gas and gunfire on Thursday to break up the demonstrations, and officials said at least one soldier was killed and four policemen were wounded by stone-throwing protesters.

A government communiqué released on Thursday accused Escobar, reputed head of the Medellin cocaine cartel, of hiring the teenage assassin who gunned down Jaramillo, candidate for the Patriotic Union Party (UP) at the main Bogota airport on Thursday morning.

"Why would I attack someone who has always shown himself to be in favour of dialogue with drug traffickers?" Escobar wrote in a letter to UP leader Diego Montaña Cuellar made public yesterday.

The government of President Virgilio Barco said the 16-year-old gunman was paid \$650 in advance by the Medellin cartel to

kill Jaramillo, who was en route to a Caribbean holiday with his wife.

"Colombian security forces have been able to establish with certainty that the attack was ordered by drug-trafficker Pablo Escobar," the National Security Council communiqué said.

Security forces said they had intercepted a communication between Escobar and an assassin, which tipped them off to the attack.

The 40-year-old Escobar, a high-living billionaire, is the cocaine trafficker most wanted for extradition to the United States.

Jaramillo, 35, died in a Bogota hospital two hours after being shot four times in the chest and stomach by the assassin firing a submachine gun, police said.

His wife threw herself on top of her wounded husband in a futile attempt to protect him.

"The son of the man once known as the Bolivian 'king of cocaine' was killed in a firefight with police who were looking for him in the wake of an attack on the home of a US drug agent, newspapers reported yesterday.

Roberto Suarez Levy, 31, was killed late Thursday in Santa Cruz, about 360 miles (560 km) southeast of La Paz, the newspapers said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

**Baker meets Savimbi:** Secretary of State James Baker met Friday with guerrilla leader Jonas Savimbi to discuss a US-sponsored effort to arrange a ceasefire in the Angolan civil war. (UPI)

**Blade in a box of biscuits:** A Canadian cookie distributor said on Friday it was recalling a brand of US-made animal crackers after an 11-year-old girl found part of a knife blade in a box of biscuits.

**Iran opens relations with Namibia:** Iran established diplomatic relations with newly independent Namibia on Friday, following the signing of an agreement in Windhoek, the Namibian capital. (AP)

**Cuban plane crashes on takeoff:** Twenty people were injured when a passenger aircraft crashed and caught fire on takeoff from the Cuban city of Santiago on Friday, the official news agency Prensa Latina reported. (Reuters)

**Car bomb kills one:** Suspected leftist guerrillas exploded a car bomb in front of Peru's Economic Ministry in Lima on Friday night, killing a passer-by and wounding 25 other people, police said. (Reuters)

**US nerve gas plan condemned:** Protestant and Catholic church leaders in the Pacific condemned on Saturday a US army plan to bring its entire European stockpile of nerve gas to a Pacific Atoll for destruction. (Reuters)

**Exxon captain's sentence suspended:** The fired captain of the Exxon supertanker that caused the worst oil spill in US history was given a suspended sentence on Friday but was ordered to spend 1,000 hours cleaning up Alaska beaches fouled by the spill and to pay up to \$50,000 in restitution. (Reuters)

**Censorship rejected:** President George Bush said on Friday that some government-funded art exhibits contained filthy, blasphemous and sacrilegious material, but rejected censorship of art. (Reuters)

**TV Marti could backfire:** Cuba has the capacity to disrupt radio broadcasts in more than half the United States if the two countries go to electronic war over TV Marti, experts said on Friday. (Reuters)

**Nine still missing:** Nine crew members remained missing and were presumed drowned on Friday after a fishing vessel capsized and quickly sank in the frigid Bering Sea, the US Coast Guard said.

### Air disasters kill more in 1989

MONTREAL, March 24, (Reuter): The number of passengers and killed in air disasters last year rose 13 per cent from 1988 and about a third of those died in bomb and other attacks, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) said yesterday.

The number of accidents of scheduled airline flights involving fatalities — 28 — remained the same as in 1988, but the number of passenger deaths jumped to 825 from 729, said the UN body, which oversees international civil aviation.

ICAO said there were 14 recorded attacks last year on passenger aircraft, resulting in 279 deaths. In 1988, 12 attacks on aircraft killed 300 people.

## Contra guerrillas agree to disband

### Major obstacle removed

TEGUCIGALPA, March 24, (Reuter): Nicaraguan Contra rebels agreed today to a plan to disband, removing a major obstacle to the peaceful transfer of power from the left-wing Sandinistas to a newly-elected, US-backed government.

Under the agreement, which was immediately hailed by outgoing Sandinista President Daniel Ortega in Managua, an estimated 6,000 Contras in Honduras would begin disarming immediately.

Another 6,000 inside Nicaragua, whom the Sandinistas have accused of increasing their attacks recently, would agree to a ceasefire and regroup in internationally supervised security zones, handing over their arms at a later date.

"The demobilisation process begins today with the disarming of the force that still remains here in Honduras," said Antonio Lacayo, who represented the incoming government of Violeta Chamorro at talks on the eight-year-old insurgency.

The plan, signed by Lacayo, who is Chamorro's son-in-law, contra commander Oscar Sovalbarro and Roman Catholic Church leader and peace negotiator Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, also called for

special internationally supervised zones for armed Contras inside Nicaragua.

Ortega said on Friday he fully supported the agreement to begin disbanding the US-backed Contra rebels.

"As president of Nicaragua I fully support this accord. I believe it goes in the direction of achieving peace and eliminating the war that has caused so much suffering, so much harm to the Nicaraguan people," he told reporters at Managua airport where he met representatives of the church and the new government.

"I am going to give instructions immediately to the Foreign Ministry and the Defence Ministry to take steps to apply the letter of this accord," Ortega told an airport news conference. "It is possible that there won't be a single armed Contra in Nicaragua on April 25th."

"We hope that this accord will be accepted and respected by all members of the Contras who are in Nicaraguan territory and that we can save the Nicaraguan people from a bloodbath," he said.

Ortega said there were between 4,000 and 6,000 Contras inside Nicaragua preparing for a major military offensive for the days prior to the inauguration. The demobilization accord

should put an end to any plans for an offensive, he said.

The head of the Contra negotiating team said that 12,000 rebels living in base camps in Yameles, Honduras, would be returning home along with 42,000 relatives.

No Sandinista officials attended Friday's talks.

Under the plan, the Contras still remaining in camps inside Honduras would be disarmed under the supervision of the United Nations and the organisation of American States peacekeeping forces by April 20, five days before Chamorro takes office.

To resolve the problem of the Contras inside Nicaragua, the agreement calls for a ceasefire to be verified by Oshando Y. Bravo and the UN and OAS peace-keeping groups.

Contra leaders said the rebels would remain in the zones until the internal situation in Nicaragua allowed them to turn over their weapons and return to civilian life.

In a statement that seemed likely to anger Sandinista supporters, the plan said the Chamorro government would provide humanitarian aid for the Contras in "recognition of the patriotic work of the Nicaraguan resistance."

## Castro scoffs at Bush aid

HAVANA, March 24, (Reuter): Cuban President Fidel Castro yesterday scoffed at US President George Bush's offer to give aid to a democratically-elected government in Cuba.

"Mere crumbs," Castro said at a televised news conference in reply to a question about Bush's offer.

Bush told reporters in Washington earlier that the United States would happily provide aid to Cuba after free and fair elections were held there.

Castro said he understood Bush bad said he was disappointed about his attitude in resisting pressure to change Cuba's one-party communist system.

"So Bush is disappointed with Castro ... where does Bush get his illusion from about Cuba? ... He seems to be more disappointed than a spiteful girlfriend," the Cuban leader said.

The news conference with Cuban journalists was carried on state radio and television. Cuban officials said it was also beamed towards the United States.

The Soviet ambassador Yuri Petrov to Cuba said yesterday that improvement in Cuba's relations with the United States is the key to Moscow reducing its arms supplies to the Caribbean island.

"I think the most efficient way for us to reduce our arms supply to Cuba is for there to be an improvement in US-Cuban relations," Petrov said in an interview with Reuters and Worldwide Television News.

## Schools may drop apartheid

SA to ease multi-racial ban

proposed move as a watershed which, if implemented, would take the country irrevocably away from apartheid.

"It shows the (ruling) National Party is able to grow and progress," Democratic parliamentarian Rupen Lorimer said.

But the ultra-right Conservative Party, the main white opposition, reacted with outrage.

"This announcement has shocked South Africa," Conservative member of parliament Andrew Gerber declared.

"We say the minister should resign because he has misled the voters. This is the penultimate step towards full integration in education," Gerber added, calling on white parents to fight the measure.

Clase said he aimed to push the reforms through by the start of next year.

The government, which says it wants negotiations on power-sharing between black and white, has so far steadfastly refused permission for non-white pupils to enter white schools.

Clase said that despite the announcement, he would not revoke a recent decision to bar a coloured (mixed race) girl, Michelle Peters, from attending a white school near her home in Natal province.

South Africa in its annual budget spends about five times more on each white pupil than on each black child.

### Democrats bash Bush at party meeting

NEW ORLEANS, March 24, (Reuter): Democratic Party moderates took their gloves off yesterday and verbally punched President George Bush, charging him with an isolationist foreign policy and deception at home over his pledge against new taxes.

In an unusual series of bare-knuckled attacks, Democratic leaders meeting here said Bush showed timidity when boldness was needed to assist pro-democracy movements sweeping the communist world.

"We can't afford to sit back and assume that countries in Eastern Europe and central America will automatically become Western democracies," Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen said in a keynote talk to 700 Democrats and businessmen meeting at the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) of moderate party leaders here.

"The stakes are too high for hands-off, isolationist foreign policies," said Bentsen, who won high marks as the 1988 party's vice presidential nominee even though Bush defeated presidential candidate Michael Dukakis.

"I submit to you that this administration is wrong when it abdicates our leadership role in the world today," Bentsen said.

Similarly, Georgia Senator Sam Nunn, DLC chairman and a potential 1992 Democratic presidential contender, said, "America should be a player, not a spectator, in the drama of democratic revolution now unfolding around the world."

They led a series of assaults against Bush, whom Democrats generally have treated with kid gloves since he ranks as one of the nation's most popular post-World War Two presidents.

End fighting, US asks Liberians

MONROVIA, Liberia, March 24, (AP): US Ambassador James Bishop said an eastern rebellion is claiming an unprecedented number of lives in Liberia, and called for an end to the conflict that has caused 279,000 civilians to flee their homes.

There can be no victory in the fighting, which only can bring greater suffering to the people of this West African nation, Bishop said on Thursday as he prepared to end a three-year tour in Liberia.

"My government accordingly calls on all parties involved to avoid senseless violence, to forgive those at whose hands they have suffered, to co-operate with the United Nations, the Red Cross and other friends of Liberia in aiding the victims of the strife, and to resolve to make a greater effort together in peace."

His call came amid reports that the fighting, which died down last month following a Dec 24 rebel incursion aimed at ousting President Samuel Doe, has assumed ferocious proportions again.

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**TOYOTA**

## Child care of paramount importance: Nisif

### Children's club at Mubarak Hospital

DIRECTOR of Mubarak Al Kabeer Hospital, Yousef Al Nisif, stated that childhood years are accorded paramount importance in all advanced countries and added that child care should be the responsibility of parents and school authorities along with all government establishments including medical establishments represented by hospitals and health centres.

The official said that children who are patients pass through different psychological and mental levels during the

period of hospitalisation. These effects are mainly caused by the child being away from the family atmosphere and feelings of loneliness.

Permanent communications between the Social Service Department at Mubarak Al Kabeer Hospital and the Children Entertainment Department proved that children entertainment has a positive role in alleviating a lot of psychological pressures on children at the hospital. The Social Service Department at the hospital has instituted a children's

club at the ninth floor of the hospital and appointed a special supervisor to distribute educational books and related material among children, Nisif said.

He added that the club contains a religious corner, including a small mosque for children and an educational corner which is furnished to give children the feeling that they are inside a school. A teacher was appointed to assist children to follow their lessons while hospitalised. There is also a talent corner including

colouring a paper cutting, the mental corner to serve the mental skills of children and finally the gift distribution corner established to encourage children to become members of the club.

He added that special donations were made by Kuwait Finance House, Zakat House and Patients Care Fund to cover costs of the club project. On the other hand, Kuwait University Arts College has supervised the project to ensure it complies with modern educational methods and standards.



Pakistan Day

Kuwait's Minister of State for Service Affairs, Esse Al Mazidi (second right, top left picture) watches Pakistan Ambassador Zahid Saeed cut the cake on Pakistan Day, celebrated on Friday. Also seen are Dr Javed Iqbal (left), former chief justice of Pakistan, Mrs Iqbal, Mrs Saeed and guests. Below left: some of the Pakistani women who attended the reception.

On Friday morning, Saeed hoisted his country's flag (above) at the Pakistan embassy. Picture shows Pakistani diplomats and Pakistani soldiers deputed to the Kuwaiti Army after the flag hoisting ceremony.

### Shamlan returns from UK

LONDON, March 24, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Higher Education Minister Dr Ali Abdulla Al Shamlan and the accompanying delegation left here yesterday en route home following a week-long visit.

Dr Shamlan held two rounds of talks here with the British Education Minister John MacGregor on ways through which the UK can help implement programmes of Kuwait to promote polytechnic and higher education.

Talks also tackled means of boosting bilateral relations in cultural and educational spheres, a source at the delegation told Kuna, adding that Dr Shamlan also met with a number of senior British officials and academics for the purpose.

The delegation, comprising Kuwait University Rector Dr Shuaib Al Shuaib, Director of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Dr Abdulla Al Methan and cultural counsellor at Kuwait Embassy in London, visited a number of British educational institutions and met students studying in the UK.

The source said Dr Shamlan has extended invitations to a number of officials at the British higher education institutions to visit Kuwait to get informed on education and training programmes.

"We're pleased to now make Regaine Topical Solution available to women with pattern hair loss. Our clinical trials indicate that, although it's a treatment and not a cure, Regaine may offer hope to many of the women who must deal with this condition," said Ihsan Larra, Upjohn Manager — Kuwait & Gulf.

Regaine is currently available in most countries of the world including USA, England, Belgium, France, Canada, in addition to Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, U.A.E. Muscat, and Saudi Arabia.

Hair loss in women is often due to androgenetic alopecia, the same condition that affects many men. In women, as in men, this type of hair loss is caused by a combination of three factors: age, heredity and the presence of the hormone testosterone.

Often men with male pattern baldness are eventually left with only a horseshoe-shaped fringe of hair. In women, hair loss is more likely to be as a generalised thinning over the top of the head.

The Upjohn Company is a world-wide research-based manufacturer and marketer of human health-care products and services, agronomic and vegetable seeds, animal-health products and pharmaceutical and specialty chemicals. The Company's headquarters are in Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA.

Details of the patient's visit were withheld

### Integrated training strategy at Paaet

THE deputy director-general of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training Hmoud Al Mudaf has said that the Paaet has developed an integrated strategy to develop the training sector at all levels.

He told a local daily that an all-round study of the existing problems at the training sector has of late been submitted to the Paaet board of directors, aiming at taking all possible measures to optimise the level of performance and output at this sector, in line with the national importance and government support of this vital facility.

He said that the study shed light on the laxity of legislations and regulations enforced at the training sector, particularly in connection with the role assigned to the private sector and the insufficiency of incentives offered to trainees during and after training.

He added that other problems tackled by the study included the need to change the existing social frown on manual work, the failure of current training programmes to meet the requirements of the local labour market, and the lack for adequate number of training facilities.

Mudaf pointed out that the recommendations adopted by the study included the formation of three main workteams, one to be concerned with proposing the needed amendments and additions to the existing regulations with the intention of stepping up the training sector, the other consisting of representatives from the Civil Service Commission, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, the Ministry of Planning the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry to represent the private sector and the third to lay down plans and work schemes at the state level to bring about the needed favourable social support of manual work through the support and help of the public media.

He said that no new policy had been adopted for admission into the Paaet's different colleges and institutes, but a great emphasis had been laid on the need to ensure that the policy on admission to be adopted must tally with that enforced at Kuwait University, adding that a new attempt would be made to operate a selective system of admission whereby students would be able to join colleges and institutes that could best polish their talents and improve their skills.

He pointed out that Paaet still enforced a policy whereby 15 per cent of the total non-Kuwaiti students enrolling at its different facilities would be accepted, stressing that efforts were being exerted to improve the level and competence of existing training instructors, which included among other things the formulation of standards needed to systematically promote qualified instructors based on competence and performance levels.

He said that these measures would come to light as of the next academic year and that the related studies would be completed by the end of the current month.

### Saudi sheikh being treated at US hospital

MINNEAPOLIS, March 24, (AP): A Saudi Arabian religious leader has taken over several rooms on the fifth floor of University of Minnesota Hospital, where he is being treated, according to a report published Friday.

The Minneapolis hospital released a statement Thursday evening explaining that a foreign citizen received a kidney transplant from a "living related donor."

While the patient was not identified, it undoubtedly is Imam Sharif Sheikh Dr Shamsuldin Al Fassi, 62, who is chairman of the Al-Soufia, a Muslim religious organisation, reported the St Paul Pioneer Press dispatch.

Shamsuldin Al Fassi arrived from the Middle East last Friday, the same day a hospital physician revealed that a closely guarded unnamed patient from the Middle East had been admitted for a kidney transplant, the newspaper reported.

Details of the patient's visit were withheld

for security reasons because threats had been made on his life, the newspaper also said.

"The transplant went well and both patients are in excellent condition," Dr John Nastrian, head of the university's surgery department, said in a news release Thursday night. "It has always been, and always will be, the policy of the University of Minnesota that cadaver organs are not given to foreign citizens. This policy is not followed at all US medical centres," the news release continued. It added the patient's name and additional information would not be released.

The hospital was confirmed by Bander Bin Sultan, an advisor and spokesman for the sheikh's family.

#### Security

The sheikh's entourage numbers more than 200 and has taken over three floors of a Minneapolis hotel and also several rooms at the hospital. Some of the sheikh's entourage is encamped at other twin cities hotels for security

## Balanced US approach imperative for peace: Saud

### Kuwaiti envoy addresses ME experts

HONOLULU, March 24. (Kuna): Sheikh Saud Naser Al Sabah, Kuwait's ambassador to the United States, has stressed the need for the Bush administration to continue pressing Israel to respond positively to the current peace moves "if any progress is to be made in the near future."

The Kuwaiti diplomat, noting the more "serious and more 'balanced' approach by the Bush administration to the peace process when compared to its predecessor, said the Israeli response will be governed, to a great extent, by Washington's "staying the course" as espoused by President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker in recent months.

The ambassador of Kuwait made these and other wide-ranging comments on the peace process during a luncheon address Thursday before the Council of Foreign Relations of Hawaii. Foreign policy experts, academics and businessmen from the islands were among those attending.

Sheikh Saud, in an initial statement and later responding to intensive questioning on current developments in Washington and in Israel, said the Arabs were more optimistic as a result of the recent changes that had been noticeable in American policy since President Bush assumed office.

He made reference to President Bush's statements on Jerusalem in recent weeks and his refusal to succumb to pressure by Israel and its lobby "as an encouraging sign of his more balanced American approach to the problems of the region."

Sheikh Saud also cited statements made by Secretary of State James Baker before Congress to the effect that the US was opposed to Israel's settlement activity and that American aid

should not be used for housing Soviet Jewish emigrants in these occupied territories.

The ambassador noted the fact that the Bush administration's hand has been strengthened by the drop in Israel's popularity among American public opinion and in the international community, which in turn has added to the pressure on those congressmen who are noted for their unflinching support of Israel to slightly amend their positions.

"Americans are starting to realise that what the pro-Israeli lobby is advocating and pushing for is not necessarily in America's interests," Sheikh

Saud emphasised.

In the past, he said, it would have been unheard of for someone with the stature of the

Republican minority leader Bob Dole to come out with a proposal calling for a five per cent cut in aid to Israel, among other countries.

But equally significant — and reflecting the changing tide against Israel — Dole's stance received wide-spread support in the US Congress. "These changes have definitely strengthened the Bush administration's hand in maintaining the pressure on Israel," the Kuwaiti ambassador said.

Sheikh Naser Al Sabah stressed the fact that most of the credit for the recent changes in Israel, in the US, and the international community in general must be given to the Palestinian intifada.

"It is the Palestinian uprising that sparked off the whole chain of developments in the last two years," the ambassador told his audience.

Historic decisions taken by the Palestinian leadership under the PLO umbrella in Algiers and Geneva must be given credit for, starting all the recent peace

moves, for catching the attention of the US government, and also for causing the split that is currently being witnessed in Israel, according to Sheikh Saud.

"It is unfortunate that Israel has not responded positively to these Palestinian decisions," he asserted.

Asked specifically by one Middle East expert if he believed the Labour Party will be able to set up a government in Israel, Sheikh Saud said.

"To a great extent, it will depend on whether the Bush administration will continue to put pressure on Israel like it has been doing in recent months or not. But there is no doubt about the need to maintain the current momentum going."

Stressing that he did not want to go into details on Israeli domestic politics, the Kuwaiti envoy noted the fact that the Israeli Labour Party has been more "susceptible" to some of the ideas that have been put forward by the Bush administration in recent months than the Likud Party.

The ambassador was asked extensively about the whole controversy surrounding the mounting Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel.

He responded by emphasising that the Arabs were not opposed to the right and freedom of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel.

"But we oppose their settlements in the occupied territories," Sheikh Saud explained. "And we are totally opposed to the idea that their settlements should be at the expense of the Palestinian people."

The ambassador further voiced the insistence by the Arab countries that it is imperative for the United States to declare these settlements "illegal" in addition to being an obstacle to peace.

### From the courts

## Man acquitted of theft charge

■ THE Criminal Court acquitted a man accused of stealing from a boutique at a commercial complex in Kuwait City.

The court was told that a CID man claimed that during his work late at night at the complex, he saw the door of the boutique and perceived a man hidden behind the clothes displayed. He closed the door and called on police.

However, the defendant succeeded in breaking the door and making good his escape. A search of the scene revealed a pair of shoes which the CID claimed to belong to the accused.

The defendant in his defence testified that he was sick at the time of the incident and was all alone at home. Further, he proved that the shoes could not fit him. Additionally, he claimed that the CID could not have identified him positively as it was dark.

Taking all these factors, the court released the defendant.

■ FIVE employees were sentenced to five years each in prison to be followed with deportation for detaining and assaulting their employer in his business premises, a local daily reported.

The court was told that the accused were working at the premises situated at Abu Halifa and were accused of stealing KD300 from the victim.

A neighbour testified that he heard screams coming from the premises and on investigation found that the victim had been detained in the bathroom by the accused.

The court in its deliberations acquitted the accused of the charge of theft for lack of evidence, but convicted them on the basis of the evidence of the witness and the facial injuries of the victim.

■ THE Criminal Court sentenced three defendants accused of possessing unlicensed arms, stealing two Mercedes cars and forgery to various terms in jail.

The first defendant identified as Qamar and the second as Gholum were each sentenced to seven years in jail to be followed by deportation, while the third identified as Falah was sentenced to five years, also to be followed by deportation.

The court was told that the second defendant Gholum had stolen a Mercedes car with Saudi plates and the theft was reported to the Salimya police station.

The first defendant stole a stamp and car book from Hawalli Traffic Department in addition to stealing a Kuwaiti car plate from the Haraj and forged an illegal car book stamped with the stolen articles.

Investigations revealed that the third defendant had also stolen a Mercedes car and was involved with the other two accused in getting the papers and licence plate forged.

■ THE criminal court has decided not to issue a sentence against a man, (father of seven), charged with using his telephone line to harass and seduce a woman, and ordered him to submit a written pledge to keep good conduct for a period of six months.

The court heard that the man used to call the victim, daughter of his friend, during the absence of her husband trying to persuade her to enter in an illicit affair with him.

The victim, fed up with his incessant attempts, decided with her husband to set a trap for him and had the police watch her residence. On the day the suspect decided to call on her supposedly after her husband had gone to work.

The man told the court that he came to visit his friend whom he learnt was not feeling well and that he had been framed. Due to a lack of evidence to prove his innocence, the court adopted its above-mentioned sentence.

■ THE criminal court has sentenced a man to three years in jail with hard labour and subsequent deportation, after charging him with forgery.

The court heard that the man, used to work as a clerk at a local company. Before he was fired for misconduct he stole a blank sheet of paper signed by the manager and wrote on it that the manager owed a certain sum of money.

The manager told the court that due to his frequent absence and behaviour he had to leave a few papers in his office signed to be filed for processing the company's transactions with the local government agencies, as his signature was recognised as representing the company's owner on an official basis.

He added that he had late fired the suspect on grounds of bad behaviour, so he might have planned to do that as an act of revenge.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Amir receives

KUWAIT, March 24, (Kuna): HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah today received HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

HH also received Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad on the occasion of his return home after participating in Namibia's independence celebrations.

## New envoys

KUWAIT, March 24, (Kuna): The ambassadors of Britain and Ireland are to present their credentials to HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah tomorrow.

A ceremony will be held on the occasion at Bayan Palace at 11:00 am.

## Erosion conference

KUWAIT, March 24, (Kuna): The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has invited scientific institutions to contribute studies and papers to the KISR-sponsored conference on erosion, planned for April 27-30, 1990.

KISR said in a statement today, the conference, the second of its kind here, is being organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, Kuwait University, the Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation and a number of other organisations.

The gathering is expected to bring together some 300 participants from Arab, Gulf and international scientific agencies.

The conference will discuss the adverse effects of erosion on equipment, against the backdrop of the heavy cost the industrialised and developing nations pay to overcome erosion-related problems.

The four-day debate will mainly feature modern anti-erosion techniques, and how to fight the phenomenon in the petroleum and petrochemical industries.

## Venezuelan envoy

KUWAIT, March 24, (Kuna): Governor of Kuwait City Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Sabah today received at his office Venezuela's Ambassador to Kuwait Jose de Jesus Osio.

During the courtesy visit, Sheikh Jaber and his guest exchanged views on issues of common interest.

## Khaled returns

ABU DHABI, March 24, (Kuna): Minister of the Kuwaiti Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Khaled Al Ahmed left Abu Dhabi for Kuwait yesterday at the end of a two-day visit during which he conveyed a message from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

The message dealt with fraternal ties between the two Gulf countries and issues of common interest, according to an official report.

## Quran contest

KUALA LUMPUR, March 24, (Kuna): Kuwait's reciter Ahmad Al Tarrabusi was among 11 contestants who took part in yesterday's session of the Malaysian-organised international Quran reading competition at the national stadium here.

Ahmad, 43, who was champion in the 1986 contest and third in last year's contest, was well received by the audience.

He told Kuna later: "I have done my best for Kuwait."

Other contestants (Qaris) taking part were Mohamad Al Jounaid of Morocco, Haji Daud Che Man (Malaysia), Ibrahim Diallo (Mali), Hafiz Mohammed Abdullah Kalem (India), Abdul Rahman Sow (Senegal), Hafiz Moorodeen Ozeegur Hossen (Mauritius), Daouda Conde (Guinea), and Oraibah Hajah Kamstah Amin (Singapore), Tima Ridhwani Tabir (Tanzania) and Sittie Hadji Nor (the Philippines).

Fourteen more contestants have yet to take part in the five-day contest tomorrow.

## Yugoslav camps

KUWAIT, March 24, (Reuter): Yugoslavia signed a contract today to build training bases for the 20,000-strong Kuwaiti army, the official Kuwait News Agency said. It gave no details.

Kuwait last year ordered an undisclosed number of Yugoslav M-84 tanks in what diplomats described as a debt-settling deal. The tank is a Yugoslav version of the Soviet-designed T-72.

## Pak embassy

THE Consular Section of the Embassy of Pakistan will remain closed on March 25, 26, and 27, 1990 on account of shifting of the Chancery to its new premises in Jabiya.

It will resume work at the new premises on March 28, 1990 at the following address:

Villa No. 7  
Block No. 11  
Plot No. 5  
Jabiya.

## Wheat cultivation vital for self-sufficiency in food

## Fish wealth being preserved

THE wheat cultivation experiment in Kuwait represents a national aspiration and is an overwhelming response to the Amir's desire to launch various agricultural development projects, according to farmer Abdul Wahhab Al Naqqi.

In an interview with a local daily, Naqqi said that although wheat cultivation in Kuwait is still to enter the "take off stage" as compared to the other neighbouring countries such as Saudi Arabia and Iraq, the importance of reclaimed areas for the cultivation of this vital and strategic material cannot be underestimated. It is a vital step in the march forward towards self-sufficiency in food resources.

He expressed hope that the lands allocated for wheat cultivation will be increased in light of the readiness demonstrated by wheat farmers in Kuwait to enhance the output and

achieve appreciable production levels. Meanwhile, Naqqi confirmed the importance of adopting irrigation systems towards the development of wheat cultivation and commented that this system had proved successful at his farm in Waqra.

Naqqi who is an agronomist said that tissue cultivation process in Kuwait is comparatively in its formative stages and it will need several years to ascertain whether this experiment is viable or not.

However, he confirmed the importance of palm cultivation in Kuwait and pointed out that these types of trees are suitable to Kuwait's climate and soil and economically speaking, it will be better than any other type of trees. He said that this kind of agriculture is not new to Kuwait as it was well-known in the Arash area in general since the old

Speaking of the support extended by the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Naqqi said that the level of support has dropped from the time that the Industrial Bank of Kuwait was empowered to undertake the distribution of support in the form of agricultural credits which has been termed as the "agricultural portfolio." The transfer of agricultural responsibility from one body to another had a negative impact on farmers, he said.

Elucidating, he said that these negative aspects are reflected on farmers through prolonged procedures adopted by the bank to decide whether the applicant is entitled to agricultural credit or not.

Pillars  
On issues of priority in the agricultural sectors, he said that the fish culture in Kuwait constitutes an important

economic source that should be transferred to an agricultural industry to be deemed as one of the country's economic pillars.

He said that he has begun just such an experiment at his farm at Waqra area and is looking forward to developing this culture in the future and hopes that it can be provided with adequate land for this purpose.

Naqqi expressed his confidence in the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources towards developing the agricultural sector and for upgrading the capabilities of the agricultural economic sector which constitutes an integral part of the state's policy.

Meanwhile, director of the Fish Resources Control and acting deputy director of Fish Wealth Department, Dr Haidar Murad stressed that preparations by the authority in order

to protect fish wealth will generate positive results in the future.

He further said that preparations have positively affected protection of fish resources from illegal fishing methods. He added that rules and regulations issued during the past lowered the number of fishing boats inside Kuwaiti waters in addition to a special policy organising the professional sector which prompted the preservation of fish resources, which he said was priceless.

## Development

Dr Murad indicated that the new directions on the development of fish wealth in the country includes establishing a multi-purpose port in order to ensure control over Kuwaiti waters. The authority has also established a fish farm to produce fish types commonly demanded by residents.

He added that the period indicated by the tenth Kuwaiti symposium organised by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research for shrimp fishing extends from May until the end of August of each season. He said that such recommendations are important for the preservation of fish wealth and development of reserves.

Regarding consumption rates of fish in GCC states, Dr Murad stated that according to a study, Kuwaitis consume the least amount of fish. The study on consumption shows that a Kuwaiti individual consumes nearly 5.9 kilograms of fish every three years, on the other hand the rate increases to 12.4 in Qatar, 9.9 in Saudi, 18.5 in Bahrain and 18.8 kilograms in UAE.

The studies indicated that Kuwaiti waters have huge quantities of fish in addition to shrimp.

## No price hike during Ramadan: Sawarej

NO price increases in food stuffs will be permitted during the holy month of Ramadan, according to Saad Al Sawarej, chairman of Union of Co-operative Societies.

The official said that no price increases will be considered during this auspicious occasion, but, commented that any request for a decrease will be promptly approved. He added that in a move designed to ensure that prices remain stable, the union in conjunction with co-operatives have begun importing Ramadan commodities two months ago in quantities that are deemed sufficient to meet demand.

Commenting on the increase in prices of some commodities at co-operative societies recently, Sawarej said that the union mainly concentrates on protecting prices of items that are commonly used during Ramadan. However, prices of some other commodities might be increased due to the change in prices of currencies or increase in freight costs or increase in prices on

commodities from the point of origin.

The latter is aptly reflected in the prices of dairy products at the point of origin due to the governments of these countries lifting the subsidies granted to owners of farms. These prices have increased by about 15 to 20 per cent, the official said and added that Kuwait is an open market that imports everything and consequently an increase in price of dairy products at the co-operative is a natural phenomenon.

The official said that supermarkets at co-operatives during the holy month of Ramadan will be from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm and from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm.

Meanwhile, the deputy chairman of the union, Talaq Al Haim

has announced that the union has set measures in motion to ensure stability of prices and to unify them at all co-operatives. The union has reached agreements with merchants and importers to maintain the level of

prices for a certain period that has been agreed upon with the price committee of the union.

On diversifying the activities of the co-operative societies, Haim called on the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) to study the feasibility of a proposal permitting co-operatives to manage some petrol stations. He said that co-operatives are established with the basic aim of providing different services to customers and myriad services are offered by co-operatives in other parts of the country.

The official said that the union supports a proposal to merge some co-operatives to develop their services and believed that it is practical to merge small co-operatives which are in close proximity with their larger counterparts. Such mergers will reduce the administrative burden, introduce modern equipment and basically provide more cost effective services to customers.



## Farewell Samad

Arab Times News Editor Atiqus Samad is leaving Kuwait after 12 years. At editorial staff hosted a luncheon to say farewell to Samad and his wife, Zubin Rahman, who are leaving for London next week. Samad was selected from 2,600 applicants by the BBC's Bengali language service. We'll miss him but we wish him all the best. Picture shows (seated, L-R): Jadranka Portor, Nirmala Janssen, Lima Khalafawi, Mrs

Samad, Samad, Diana Abou Haidar, Theresa Jose. (Standing, L-R): Peter D'Souza, Abdul Razak, Shahida Azizuddin, Fatima Ahmed, Z.A. Raipuri, Yawar Maqsood, Omar Hassan, Hakimuddin Lokhandwala, George Cherian and M.C. Bose.

Samad (right) pleased as punch after the luncheon.

## Cancer may be linked to diet, says physician

## Change in eating patterns suggested

By Diana Abou Haidar  
Arab Times staff



SCIENTIFIC research during the past two decades has shown specific and significant correlations between diet and certain cancers, said Dr. Mohamed Abdulla, professor of medicine at University of Lund, Sweden.

Abdulla, who visited Kuwait last week to discuss a proposal for carrying out a research study with Kuwait University's Faculty of Medicine on diet and cancer risk in the general population of Kuwait, added that it has been reported that about 30 per cent of all cancer deaths may be attributed to diet.

The quantity and quality of a normal diet may render an individual more susceptible to the carcinogen. The most important dietary factors associated with cancer causation include fat, alcohol and nitrates.

Today's youngsters are doing everything they are not supposed to do. I remember when I was little I had to walk 5 km in mud to school every day. I haven't been sick one day of my life.

Abdulla said that cancer is not as dreadful as it sounds. "The problem with cancer is that we cannot always diagnose it early enough. Cancer shortens an individual's lifetime by 2 to 3 years, while heart disease shortens it by ten years," he added.

He also said that cancer is closely related to ageing.

"If we live to be a hundred, there will be a fairly good chance that we'll develop some kind of cancer. We all have the cells with potential to become cancer cells, but when we are young, they are depressed by immunity and other hereditary factors."

He added that it has become clear that the differences in the rate at which various cancers occur in different human populations are often correlated with differences in the diet. "It has been observed that diets high in fat and low in fiber are associated with high incidence of colorectal, pancreatic, breast, gynecological and prostatic cancers. Also a high alcohol intake together with very low or high fiber foods has been associated with a high incidence of oral and pharyngeal cancers."

"Such information about eating habits is essential in any effort to recommend certain changes in eating patterns. It makes me very sad to see children in Kuwait who are overweight and inactive. Something has to be done about that because it's in this early part of our lives that our control mechanisms are developed."

He added that the donation will be given to educational, health, cultural and charitable organisations.

## Juvenile delinquency on the rise

which 637 minors were involved or 23.8 per cent. 522 of the minors or 19.5 per cent were accused of thefts, 131 or 5 per cent were accused of vulgar acts, 91 or 3.4 per cent for misuse of telephone and the rest in other accusations.

## Increase

Roumi said that the sharp increase in the number of juvenile delinquency cases has alarmed many officials in the country because of the grave consequences such delinquency may have on families and the whole society. A separate prosecution for delinquent minors was established in 1983 to look into juvenile cases, Roumi said.

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Marx smeared

A soldier strolls past a wall of Karl Marx, recently smeared with paint and excrement, in the Eritrean capital, Addis Ababa, on Friday. Socialist images and slogans have been defaced or removed, as Ethiopia follows the lead of Eastern Europe in dismantling socialism. (Reuter wirephoto)

## UN will resume Jew deliberations

Influx to Palestine

UNITED NATIONS. March 24. (Agencies): The Security Council will resume Tuesday its deliberations on Soviet-Jewish immigration to Palestine, the UN announced yesterday.

The last meeting occurred on March 15 prior to the outcome of the cabinet crisis in Israel.

Since then, Arab diplomats have been lobbying hard to bring as many delegations as possible to the council table on this issue.

Speaking on behalf of the Arab group during the last council meeting, Abdulla Salih said it would be a "denial of justice" to allow the Jews to settle in the occupied territories for no other reason than that they were Jewish, while the Palestinians were denied the right to settle in their homeland only because they were Arab.

Kenneth Stein, director of the Middle East programme at the Carter Presidential Centre in Atlanta, said he was surprised at the depth of resentment from Arabs about Jews from the Soviet Union coming to live in Israel.

Stein said officials in Jordan, Egypt and Syria "believe there is a conspiracy — that Moscow is providing the bodies and Washington providing the money — and that the United States and Soviet Union are

doing this intentionally to hurt the Arabs."

The Soviet national airline Aeroflot has closed down one of the main routes for Jews emigrating to Israel, halting ticket sales to Budapest, Soviet television reported yesterday.

The decision followed a decision by Hungary's Malev Airline to stop flights of Soviet Jews to Tel Aviv via Budapest because of the threat of Palestinian terrorist attacks, a move Israeli officials denounced as a "classic example of terrorist blackmail."

On Thursday, Malev also appealed to Aeroflot to stop bringing Jewish emigres into the country.

Soviet television said Aeroflot would not sell tickets to emigrants wishing to travel to Budapest from Moscow, Leningrad and the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, but would continue to transport businessmen and tourists.

Malev will also continue to sell tickets to tourists.

Some Soviet Jewish emigres who already had bought Malev tickets travelled to Malev's offices at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport. They said the airline refused to register any passengers who wanted to emigrate to Israel.

### Jerusalem resolution

## Arab League criticises US

WASHINGTON, March 24. (AP): The Arab League denounced the US Senate yesterday for a resolution stating that an undivided occupied Jerusalem should be recognised as the capital of Israel.

The Senate unanimously adopted the resolution by voice vote late Thursday in what was viewed as a swipe at President George Bush for saying Jews should not settle in occupied east Jerusalem, the section of the city seized by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war.

The Senate measure, which has no legal status and simply expresses the sense of the Senate, said senators acknowledge "that occupied Jerusalem is and should remain the capital of the state of Israel."

The resolution is a "shocking development that demonstrates an incomprehensible and reckless defiance of the international community, the Arab and Muslim worlds and the declared policy of the United States," said Arab League ambassador Clovis Maksoud.

"This irresponsible resolution forfeits any serious or constructive role the US Senate can play in the search for a just peace in the Middle East," said Maksoud, who represents the 22-member organisation.

Occupied Jerusalem is revered by the Arab world as one of Islam's holiest sites and the rightful capital of a Palestinian state.

The United States and most other countries have not recognised Jerusalem as the Israeli capital, maintaining their embassies in Tel Aviv.

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The Senate "strongly believes that occupied Jerusalem must remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic religious groups are protected," the Senate measure states.

Senator Patrick Moynihan said the resolution "represents a clear statement by the Senate that President Bush's statements on East Jerusalem were unwise and untimely."

He said Bush's "ambiguous statements about the status of occupied Jerusalem" are not helpful to the peace process.

Responding to criticism, Bush has argued that he was merely stating existing policy when he made his remarks earlier this month. "Our efforts in the peace process are in no way designed to promote the division of occupied Jerusalem," Bush said in a letter to senator Rudy Boschwitz.

He also urged thousands of Arab-Americans assembled in Washington to expose "the dangers of Israeli aggression against Palestinian rights as well as to demonstrate how the American role as peace broker will be jeopardised in the region."

The National Council on Canada-Arab relations has sent a complaint to the Canadian Human Rights Commission on the conference the University of Manitoba province intends to hold next month under the title of "Islamic terrorism in the 1990's and the threat to North America."

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Peter Neville — author of 'Do Cats Need Shrinks?' with Scribble the cat

## How to dry your alcoholic moggy

By Claire Lockhart

A bard-drinking cat that had to be "dried-out" and a former pub moggy so used to drunks that it treated non-staggering humans with great suspicion...

Yes, even the cat world has an alcohol problem.

More painful for the owner was the case of Wilberforce, the feline that loved to chew condoms. The ultimate crisis occurred one night when he stalked a prize specimen in the bedroom. The only problem was... the master of the house was wearing it at the time!

Cat psychologist Peter Neville recalls: "This was the last straw for Wilberforce's owner who, doubtless smarting in pain, took him to the rescue centre the next day."

Slosher's passion, on the other hand, was for Campari and soda. He had been given the tipple as a treat one time too many and was now virtually addicted to the stuff. "Gradual withdrawal of access to alcohol was advised as a slow drying out programme for Slosher, who had been used to a daily drink for over three years," says Peter.

"I also advised that the soda level be raised at the expense of the Campari and hoped that cold turkey wouldn't set in!"

### Rescued

Another np-market drink provided the name of a cat rescued from a pub in Scotland. Pernod's owners wouldn't understand why the creature treated some visitors with affection and others with downright suspicion.

It's not that the only people with whom the cat was totally relaxed were those who moved strangely. Anyone who was quiet or moved normally was the cause of some anxiety for Pernod.

"It was all a question of early exposure," says Peter. "He was very suspicious of people who were quiet and walked straight but had no difficulty at all in coping with staggering, loud drunks!"

Agoraphobia — the fear of going outdoors — isn't usually associated with moggy's but 32-year-old Peter — author of a new book on cat behaviour — says such cases are not unusual. He says: "Sometimes it is because they haven't experienced enough things outdoors when they were young, so anything frightens them and going out is a real problem."

"With others it is a response to a single dramatic incident. The cat may have been attacked by other cats or may have fallen from a tree. The cat then decides it is safer to stay indoors."

When a cat-fight takes place, the loser may stay indoors to avoid another encounter. "He may lose the ability to cope outdoors with mild changes such as the sound of leaves rustling or the noise of a car, even if the other cat is not on the scene."

Agoraphobia may also be due to the disturbances of the cat's access points to the home because of building work.

The feline's Freud recommends waiting for such work to finish before tempting the cat outdoors again — and he advises that the owner should accompany it for reassurance, with the pet on a lead if necessary.

### Threat

In the case of another cat providing the threat, it may be necessary to discuss with its owner the possibility of letting the two beasts out at different times.

It was the sounds of the great indoors that troubled Mignon the musical moggy. When her owner whistled, she would run up the woman's body to rub herself around the mouth, while at the same time gripping tightly around her neck with her paws.

Her owner is a flute-player and her practising also sent Mignon into a frenzy. Peter explains: "The high notes of the human's whistle — or the pure, higher ones of the flute — seem to mimic the sounds made from a kitten to its mother."

Having attracted the mother, the calls cause her to rub the kittens and physically reassess them by licking. This often happens around the face of a kitten. Mignon was probably seeking face-to-face contact with her flute-playing owner because the sounds, no matter how well practised, indicate distress and she wants to offer her owner reassurance of the maternal kind."

Peter, whose practices are in London, the University of Bristol Veterinary School and at two animal hospitals in the North West of England, treats between 500 and 750 cats a year.

He told me: "Nearly all the cases are at the messy end like spraying outdoors and toileting problems."

"They will ordinarily use a litter tray and they won't spray indoors because it is a secure base. But when they start pooping on the television or spraying, I think people put up with it once or twice — but, when it happens repeatedly, they start to get upset."

### Cases

He says he sees more aggression cases these days. "I don't think that means cats are getting more aggressive. I think it is an indication that people now realise there's help available to treat these things, whereas before — certainly in aggression cases — they might have had the cat put down."

"Some cats are aggressive towards dogs because they have had a bad experience and been frightened by a canine. "They learn if they lash out with a paw full of claws, the dog backs away," said Peter.

But the most acceptable form of aggression is predatory aggression. It is, after all, part of a cat's nature. Peter told me: "We've never lectured our own cats for being non-predatory. We've always allowed them to come in and eat and then go out and hunt. Having a full tummy does not switch off the cat's hunting instincts."

The figures for the estimated numbers of rodents and birds that are killed by cats are astounding. In this country it is somewhere approaching 100 million a year, which ecologically is a vast amount. It is estimated that cats account for between one third and one half of all bird deaths each year."

Although Peter has dealt with thousands of cats, there are still cases which amaze him. He recalls Thumper, a neutered ginger tom who had fallen in love with Jasmine... an eight-year-old Dachshund!

The owner complained: "He follows her everywhere, yowling and sniffs and tries to mount her at every opportunity!"

Peter discovered Thumper was responding to smells given off by Jasmine as a result of an internal tumour in much the same way be would respond to a cat in heat. Jasmine was treated and Thumper started looking for a new mate!

By Ken Franckling

BOSTON, (UPI): Roy Haynes, a pioneer of modern jazz drumming, is tired of hearing his name and his career talked about in the past tense.

But after 45 productive years in music, he laughs about that irony and its flip side: some listeners are just discovering him. Some even think he's a newcomer on the scene, a mistake not likely from any serious jazz listener.

While Haynes has influenced several generations of modern drummers, he has toiled in relative obscurity compared to higher profile players of his own post-war generation.

### Originals

"People always want to dwell on what we did in the past. What are we doing now? What can I still do now? That's what is important," Haynes says. "I love to play, and I was Charlie Parker's favourite drummer. These are the things the world should know."

Haynes, who kept time for Miles

Davis, Bird, Sarah Vaughan, Stan Getz, John Coltrane, Eric Dolphy, Thelonious Monk and Gary Burton at different points in his career, has just recorded with guitar wiz Pat Metheny.

*Fearless Conversations*, due out in May under Metheny's name, is a trio session with Haynes and bass player Dave Holland, with the exception of the jazz chestnut *Old Friends*; all of the songs are originals. The session was inspired by some jamming Metheny and Haynes did at Ryles, a Cambridge, Massachusetts, club the guitarist frequents.

"It sounds like a live gig. We just did it," Haynes says. "It is great that Pat wanted to get involved with some of the things we did before. Some people are too busy doing their own thing."

Haynes' light touch is his hallmark. He is a drummer who celebrates the melodicism in a song with tasteful accents.

In addition to studio work, he has his own quartet. The current band includes pianist David Kikoski, bassist James Genus and either Craig Handy or Ralph Moore on tenor sax.

"In a big band, the drummer has to generate the power. In a little band, you can say magically. You're in demand, but not as much in the rhythm role," Haynes says.

Listen to four of the finest jazz recordings ever made: volume one of *The Complete Sarah Vaughan on Mercury*, Getz' brilliant 1962 *Focus* album (Verve) and, Chick Corea's *Now He Sings, Now He Sobs* (Pacific Jazz) or *Thelonious Monk: Live At The Five Spot* (Milestone). Haynes is right in the thick of things.

Creativity

"I think Roy is one of the greatest drummers who ever lived," says jazz producer and pianist George Wein. "I've played with a lot, and listened to a lot. Roy has a touch and creativity that very few can match."

Born in Boston on March 13, 1926 Haynes worked the Boston jazz scene as a teenager with Felix Barbosa, Frankie Newton and Sabby Lewis. In the summer of 1945, a special delivery letter summoned him to New York to join Luis Russell's 17-piece band at the Savoy

ballroom. Haynes was paid \$125 a week and stayed two years.

In late 1947, he joined saxophonist Lester Young's quartet for a two-year tour. Haynes roosted at Birdland in 1949 as house drummer, until Max Roach recommended him to Charlie Parker. He played with Bird for a year.

From 1953 to 1958, a period in which drummers Roach, Art Blakey and Philly Joe Jones had their own high-profile bands, Haynes worked almost exclusively with Vaughan.

"I may have had the sensitivity of accompanying a singer, but she made me really get down. There are musicians who can't play slow and keep the interest," Haynes says.

### Enjoyed

"Just hearing her, especially back in that period, she sounded like Charlie Parker or Bud Powell. It was never stiff. We never had to play the same thing. She was always ad libbing. I enjoyed every moment of it."

Haynes was Coltrane's favourite substitute when Elvin Jones was unavailable.

Tony Williams credits him with introducing the triplet feel on drums that Jones developed further.

"Back in the old days, some guys had only one cymbal, and one or two toms. But they could get so much out of it," Haynes says. "I always tried to say as much as I could with as little as I had."

"Most of today's young drummers all sound alike. There is more copying going on now than ever. Some are better musicians, because they have had more of a chance to study, and they are brighter. But I don't know if they really know what to do with all that brightness."

On a recent trip to Europe, a fan came up to Haynes and told him he was famous. A household word.

"I said I didn't think so. But the fact that people know something about me, and love me without having been sponsored by a record company promotion makes me feel good. It has all happened naturally," Haynes says.

"That is a great reward to me, even if it doesn't sell millions of records. But who knows, there is still some time left."

## Japan

# Farmers' wives lead lonely lives

KUMAMOTO, Japan, (Reuters): Rikio Yamaguchi says it's almost impossible for farmers like him to find wives in the remote, mountainous prefecture of Kumamoto in southern Japan.

"I somehow understand why city girls, with enough money to buy Italian clothes and travel abroad twice a year, wouldn't be interested in being a farmer's wife here," the 42-year-old bachelorette says.

In the depth of the harsh Japanese countryside, any woman contemplating marrying a farmer might recall the old saying: "Three years of tears, ten years of endurance."

"Yes, it is hard," says Yomiko Yumie, 35, recalling her first year as a bride in this remote village, where people still make a living growing rice and vegetables and making silk.

Training can be grueling. The 40 hours of class and strict daily discipline leave the students little time to think about their own style. Most students, like Soviet-born Svetlana O'Malley, don't complain: "I don't feel limited, I don't feel as though I am losing my creativity. True, it is restrictive and demanding, but I think it is necessary to go through this to understand humanity in general. I am more interested in people than in an abstract understanding of what people are." O'Malley emigrated from the USSR in 1972.

Students (above) find technique comes first at New York's Art Academy.

They have returned to the values of the Renaissance and its precision in depicting the human form, rejecting the unbridled liberalism that spread through most art schools in the 1960s.

For the 78 graduate students currently enrolled at the academy, the first hours of classes are often a lesson in humility. They find that what is important is not aesthetics but technique, starting with a rigorous and disciplined study of anatomy through geometry.

The spirit of the Renaissance is ever-present. Says de Callatay with enthusiasm: "I think that today, man is gradually regaining a central role. Until recently, there was a certain lack of confidence in the human mind, but I think that the students here have reacted against this through their work."

One of the academy's priorities is to teach how to draw. Although the students are all art school graduates in their late 20s or early 30s, they still have a lot to learn and the human body comes first, according to director Gregory Hedges. "Once you can master the structure of the human body and can convey that on a piece of paper, landscapes and things like that are terribly easy," he says.

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Students have come from far away to learn. They represent 12 U.S. states, but also China, Argentina, Vietnam, Germany, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Canada, the Philippines and Holland.

Now an officially recognised institution, the academy issues Master's degrees. Normal tuition averages \$7,500 a year, but the school awards a few scholarships each year to exceptionally gifted students who could not otherwise afford to come.

## 62nd Oscar

# Favourites

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): The 62nd annual Academy awards, like the previous 61, offer movie aficionados with a betting bent the opportunity to handicap something with better odds than Santa Anita Park.

There are only five horses in each race under the lights at the Los Angeles music centre Moody, March 26.

And the favourites are fairly easy to pick. After all, the claiming races have been run at tracks operated by critics, directors and writers guilds, Golden Globes and other warm-ups.

The major contest, of course, is the cup for best picture. This year it appears to be a two-horse race — *Driving Miss Daisy*, a delicate filly, and *Born on the Fourth of July*, a plodding, slow-speed colt.

*Driving Miss Daisy* has the shortest odds. It has earned more money than *Born on the Fourth of July* and includes two brilliant performances by veterans Jessica Tandy and Morgan Freeman. It brags that both are nominated for best performances.

The touching story of a southern Jewish matron and her deferential black chauffeur suffers one major glitch. Its director, Bruce Beresford, is not nominated for best performances.

*Born on the Fourth of July* is second in the betting. Its chances were boosted earlier this month when Oliver Stone won the Directors Guild of America award.

The entry's young jockey (Tom Cruise) although nominated for an Oscar, probably doesn't have the experience to boot his mount home.

Of the three remaining entries, *Field of Dreams* has the inside track although its director, Phil Alden Robinson, failed to qualify.

*Driving Miss Daisy* will be an also ran, partly because it is an Irish-English import, a handicap this western star. *Driving Miss Daisy* might well have won in past Oscar races in which Day-Lewis was not nominated.

*Younger Cruise*, is second in the betting. It's a touching story of a southern Jewish matron and her deferential black chauffeur suffers one major glitch. Its director, Bruce Beresford, is not nominated for an Oscar.

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## EDITORIALS

## ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ONE great use of words is to hide our thoughts — Voltaire, French writer (1694-1778).

## Routed in by-election

## Thatcher faces mid-term crisis

LONDON. (Reuter): The humiliating by-election loss of a "safe" Conservative seat on Friday deepens a mid-term crisis for British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and will raise fresh questions over her leadership.

Opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock, predicting he would be the next prime minister, called the result in the central English constituency of Mid-Staffordshire a "turning point — not for us, but for the Tory (Conservative) Party."

"They are going to have to make up their minds how quickly they get rid of Thatcher. The sooner she goes the better," he said.

Predicted

Even before Friday's result, Conservative rebels predicted that she would face a leadership challenge later this year.

A bid by Thatcher loyalists to make a challenge more difficult was only marginally successful when a party committee ruled on Thursday that a challenger's proposer and seconder must also be declared and not be allowed to keep their names secret.

Thatcher has until mid-1992 to call a general election and she has suffered mid-term blues during her two previous terms in office. But the nature and extent of the government's current problems make an update in its fortunes particularly difficult.

Traditional Conservative grassroots support has been eroded by high interest rates aimed at curbing inflation and an unpopular new "poll tax" to fund local services.

Thatcher aides said she was disappointed by the by-election result but saw it as a protest vote against the new tax.

Dominated

The poll tax issue dominated the Mid-Staffordshire vote, where a Conservative majority of 14,500 in 1987 was turned into a Labour lead of 9,500 — the biggest electoral reversal in 50 years.

"She is confident the government will win back the seat at the next election and does not believe the result represents a sea-change in politics," one aide said.

But Labour said the result was more than a referendum on the poll tax. "The historic message that will go from this by-election across the Western world will be that the dark age of Thatcherism is drawing to a close," triumphant Labour candidate Sylvia Head said.

A compilation of four leading opinion polls showed Labour stretching its lead to 21 points — an increase of seven points in two weeks.

The BBC television "Poll of Polls" put Labour's national standing at 51 per cent against 30 per cent for the Conservatives, the government's lowest rating since the 1987 election.

Dissatisfaction

Dissatisfaction with Thatcher's leadership rose three points to 66 per cent, while her satisfaction rating dropped by the same amount to an all-time "Poll of Polls" low of 26 per cent.

Home-owners, the most solid of Conservative supporters, are being particularly hurt by high interest rates. The government has doubled rates to 15 per cent over the past 18 months and has forecast they will stay high for the foreseeable future.

The poll tax, a levy on all adults to fund local services instead of property taxes, comes into force on April 1 in England and Wales and is so reviled that Thatcher effigies have been buried in a wave of protest demonstrations.

## Albanians plagued by mystery illness

BELGRADE, (Reuter): Ten people were injured in clashes in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province on Friday after hundreds of ethnic Albanians reported sick with a mystery illness for the second successive day. Radio Belgrade said.

"The situation is dramatic in several towns," it said, adding that a total of 40 people had been hurt since Thursday.

Ethnic Albanians attacked minority Serbs and Montenegrins in six towns, beating up at least 10. One person was stabbed on Friday and a person was beaten in the chest on Thursday in a critical condition, the radio said.

The clashes, which began after more than 400 ethnic Albanian children complained of nausea, stomach cramps and breathing problems on Thursday, raised fears of a new wave of the ethnic violence that has killed 26 people in Kosovo this year.

Victims

The Albanians said the children were victims of a mass chemical poisoning. No other ethnic group

has been hit.

On Thursday, ethnic Albanians chanting "you poisoned our children" stormed the local Communist Party and police headquarters in the town of Podujevo, broke into a houses and stoned cars, and halted a train to molest passengers.

Belgrade Radio reported new clashes in Vučitrn, Kline, Urosevac, Pec, Prizren and Malisovo and said the injured included two Serbian policemen. Serbs, vastly outnumbered by ethnic Albanians, were staying at home and arming themselves.

It said several hundred more children had reported sick on Friday and the hospital in the town of Pec was full.

A federal team of medical experts and chemists had not been able to diagnose what caused the illness.

Kosovo's communist leaders accused the ethnic Albanians of foul play over the suspected and blamed it on those who returned in January and February for more autonomy from the republic of Serbia, of which Kosovo is part.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1507 — France's King Louis XII attacks Genoa, Italy, with Swiss army to restore order.

1634 — British colonists under Lord Baltimore reach Maryland in North America.

1815 — Austria, Britain, Prussia and Russia form new alliance against Napoleon Bonaparte to maintain established order in Europe.

1821 — Greek patriots begin revolt against domination of Ottoman Empire, an uprising that lasts 12 years and wins Greek Independence.

1883 — Revolution breaks out in Haiti.

1936 — United States, Britain and France sign London Naval Convention.

1941 — Yugoslavia joins Rome-Berlin-Tokyo alliance in World War II.

1957 — Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands sign in Rome treaties for Common Market and Euratom.

1965 — Dudley Senanayake forms ministry in Ceylon following defeat of Mrs Bandaranaike in elections.

1966 — Five climbers become first to reach summit of Mount Eiger in Swiss Alps.

1969 — Pakistan's president Ayub Khan turns power over to military after 11 years of leadership.

1975 — Saudi Arabia's King Faisal is assassinated in Riyadh by nephew with history of mental illness. Faisal's brother, Crown Prince Khalid, succeeds to throne.

1987 — More than 80 Afghan rebels and civilians are killed when Afghan Air Force jets bomb and rocket several camps close to Pakistani border.

1988 — Israeli troops open fire on stone-throwing Palestinians who attacked Arafat school converted in makeshift army headquarters in occupied West Bank.

1989 — Heads of Egypt, Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organization meet to co-ordinate Middle East peace strategy.

An E. German's vision of one Germany  
Contributing contrasts for unity

By Tom Porteous

BERLIN, West Germany, (WNL): Konrad Weiss has a vision for a united Germany: a nation which can live in peace with its neighbours and to which both East and West Germany can contribute the contrasting lessons of their 40 years' history.

"There is in our German history much that is important not only for Germany but also for Europe," Weiss says. "But there is also much that is very painful for the whole world. We cannot continue only with the one while forgetting the other. We must live with both. We must work for a healthy German national identity in a European context, with responsibility for the whole world."

In pursuit of this ideal Weiss has given up his career as a maker of children's films to become one of the leading voices in East Germany's opposition movement. He is one of a rare breed of politicians who appears to be genuinely motivated by a high sense of moral responsibility, not by desire for political power.

Weiss belongs to that group of intellectuals, artists and Christians whose persistent, principled resistance to the old Stalinist regime was one of the main factors which led to East Germany's popular revolution last autumn. In September Weiss founded "Democracy Now," one of the first of the opposition movements to emerge from the underground and call openly for political, democratic change. One month later the old communist leadership was tottering under the pressure of mass popular demonstrations; two months later the Berlin Wall had fallen, and the political map of Europe had been transformed.

Change

"With this sudden radical change," Weiss says, "it simply happened that most of us political amateurs who sat down together in September have now entered the political landscape and, circumstances permitting, some of us will assume political responsibility in Parliament, and even in the government after the elections on March 18."

"These "amateurs" belong to the second generation of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) born during World War II, who entered school while their fathers were busy founding the socialist German state in 1949. "I belong to the 1968 generation," says Weiss, a father of two daughters and now a grandfather. "Ours was a revolution of grandfathers and grandmothers for their children. I hope I belong to the generation that has not only brought about an end, but that can also make a new beginning."

Although Weiss and his colleagues describe themselves as political amateurs, they have little respect for the professionals who piled their trade in collaboration with the old regime and are now trying hard to adapt to the new democratic spirit in the election campaign. These include not only the communists, but also members of the old "block parties" who played ball with the totalitarian regime to give the Parliament a semblance of political plurality.

Says Weiss: "None of the members of those parties which had responsibility for the country and led the country into its crisis has the right today to claim political responsibility for himself. One cannot with the touch of the hand discard 44 years of the evil history and act as though it had never happened."

It is understandable that men like Weiss should distrust collaborators. Weiss, for example, suffered persistent harassment from the secret police on account of his activities in the Christian church, his close relations to dissidents and reformers in other East bloc countries — particularly Poland — and his refusal to conform to the authoritarian system. But today the much weakened Communist Party presents only a slight threat to Weiss' political vision for Germany. In fact men like the reforming communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow now share many of Weiss' aspirations, particularly in regard to the key question of German unity.

What now threatens to shatter the dreams of the "amateur politicians" are the rising tide of untrained German nationalism in East Germany and attempts of the conservative West German government, under Chancellor Helmut Kohl, to use this to annex the GDR to West Germany as quickly as possible. Says Weiss: "I regard the present massive interference of the West German parties and government in our political landscape as a presumption, a lack of political culture." He sees what he calls the invasion of the West German currency and of Western political and economic models as endangering



Konrad Weiss... amateur politician

## Lost without fight

By Tom Porteous

BERLIN, West Germany, (WNL): The world of Maj Gen Manfred Graetz, chief of staff of the East German Army is fast disappearing. Yet it's hard to believe on a bright February morning in the quiet town of Strausberg, where the National People's Army (NVA) has its headquarters 30 miles from Berlin. Everything appears to continue to run with the Prussian attention to order and detail that one would expect of any German army. But in fact the NVA, founded in 1956 to protect socialism from the capitalist West, has just lost the cold war without firing a shot.

Already East Germany is being invaded by a West German army of businessmen and politicians, armed not with guns but with the West German mark — one of the world's strongest currencies. Against this invasion, Graetz and his staff have done no more to defend the country he has served for 40 years than East Germany's communist leaders.

"I accept," said the chief of staff in clipped military German with a strong Saxon accent, "that the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and the National People's Army are not entering the process of the unification of the two German states as victors of history. Accepted! But we are not entering this process as beggars either; we also have something to offer."

Concerned

The NVA's chief of staff has every reason to be concerned about what the future will bring for his 168,000 strong Army. Already some of his officers have individually chosen to unify — they have joined the thousands of East Germans still flocking to West Germany every day and have gone so far as to apply for commissions in the Bundeswehr, the West German army which was considered enemy No. 1 for the four decades of the cold war.

"It may seem funny to you," said the chief of staff, a 55-year-old

veteran, "for me it is unimaginable — in simple military terms it's desperation."

Even worse for the NVA are the proposals coming from the West German Defence Ministry for an extension of the influence of Nato (the Western military alliance formed after World War II) to East Germany. What would then become of the NVA?

Graetz' arguments against the integration of the two German armies are compelling: "I simply cannot imagine that an officer who has served in the NVA and who has fulfilled his duties to the Warsaw Pact (East bloc military alliance), who has engaged himself for the NVA can suddenly step into another uniform — that of the Bundeswehr, for example — and become a member of another military alliance, which want Marxist-Leninist doctrine is no longer taught in military schools. In addition, the strength of the army has been considerably reduced, as has the required length of conscription. Whereas all East German men were formerly obliged to undergo military service, they can now choose to serve in some branch of the social services instead."

Changes

But in other branches of East German public service, for example in political and economic organisations, such changes are already taking place as the two Germans move closer together. It is just that contradictions are that much more pronounced, complex and delicate in the disciplined and slightly unreal world of the military barracks.

Having grown up during World War II, Graetz joined the army when he was 18. "I am a child of the German Democratic Republic," he said. "For 40 years I have felt a sense of allegiance to it. I would simply not be true if I claimed I had for 40 years always had ideals of a United Germany in my sights."

Although he took no part in the bloody suppression by the Warsaw Pact troops of the 1968 popular uprising in Czechoslovakia, he says he was at the time convinced that the Warsaw Pact was serving a just cause. "Now my judgment is somewhat different," he said with a smile, "but as we say, in the evening one is

the chances of a gradual, stable and peaceful integration of the two Germanys.

Weiss appreciates many aspects of West German democracy, but he sees it as "deformed" by the too strong connections between some of the political

parties and the powerful economic forces in industry and banking. Before the two Germanies move towards unity, Weiss says, East Germany should be allowed time to itself, time to develop its own democracy, to relish its own newly-won freedom.

Over three decades the writer has dealt with customs affairs and has seen how expatriate Indians are being treated on arrival and how every expatriate Indian is a party to customs.

For the record it is worth mentioning here that whereas every employee in the Indian work sector has gone on strike at least once in his life, even the police constabulary in India, I do not remember the customs officers ever resorting to this measure as they cannot afford to lose one day off from their customs duty. I have never seen a customs staff who are off duty report to airport in civilian clothes that speaks volumes of what's going on at Indian customs.

Personally I would suggest that Indian associations and the NRI forums in Kuwait and the Gulf area to take up strongly to increase the present customs allowance upto Rs 5,000/- per passenger above the age of 12 years and to Rs 1,500 for a student and the levy on duty lowered to 100 per cent only.

Just as the perennial increase in air fare has to be stopped as the travelling Indian family pays almost KD 1000/- in air fare only to destinations in Gao and much more to the South. Here again representation has to be made to the respective authorities concerned as salaries have remained stagnant.

Can the Goan Welfare Society take up the issues with the Indian government in co-ordination with other associations.

V. De Souza,  
Kuwait.

"We did not expect to get a majority. Fifteen per cent — that's all an opposition that can get something done. "We want two equal, independent, sovereign states to grow into a new Germany that is better than the past East Germany but also better than West Germany." — Hans Modrow after his party's defeat in the East German elections.

"Hollywood is facing a challenge. Today it is by the British, tomorrow it may be the French or the Indians or the Russians. To maintain its place, Hollywood must go outside the old formulas. It must find honest stories, stories that reflect something important to us, stories that reflect these disturbing times in which we live." — Samuel Goldwyn.

## Drug kingpin scorns at US

MUANG TUEN, Burma. (Reuters): Heroin warlord Khun Sa, marshall his troops in the jungles of the "Golden Triangle," scores a US court indictment and dismisses the threat of a Panama-style raid on his lair, a close aide says. "Khun Sa has become a convenient scapegoat," said his spokesman, Col Kheunsa, in this hilltop stronghold near the Burmese-Thai border. "But this is Asia, not America."

## Training

The United States is training its allies on Khun Sa after ousting Panamanian leader Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega in a US military invasion in December. Washington says Noriega was a linchpin in the Latin American cocaine trade.

The US Justice Department said last week it had indicted Khun Sa on 10 drug-trafficking charges related to vast quantities of heroin smuggled into the United States between 1986 and 1988.

The US Drug Enforcement Administration estimates 40 to 50 per cent of the heroin reaching the United States comes from the Golden Triangle, where the borders of Burma, Laos and Thailand meet.

The Thai press has speculated the United States might be planning a military operation in the remote Burmese hills to grab Khun Sa — the "Prince of Death" to US authorities.

A US embassy spokesman in Bangkok said he was unaware of any such plan. The indictment was aimed in part at showing that Washington had not forgotten the heroin problem in Asia as it battled Latin America's cocaine dealers.

## Hard

Grabbing Khun Sa, who commands a disciplined, well-equipped private army of more than 8,000 men, would be hard. His camps are dotted among jungle-clad hills, a terrain which would be familiar to US forces engaged in the disastrous Indochina war of the 1960s and 1970s.

"A military operation would be very stupid," Kheunsa said on Thursday in the dusty village of Muang Tuen.

"In America there's nobody to oppose the United States, but in this region there's China, the Soviet Union, India. They are closer with us and might consider taking some kind of action."

Kheunsa was loath to reveal the whereabouts of his boss. Bangkok press reports said he was moving north deeper into Burma following the indictment.

But the bespectacled aide said Khun Sa, 56, was unfurled.

"He feels good there's still somebody who wants to be his enemy. Without an enemy he's nothing."

## Avoided

How had he avoided capture so far? "He relies mainly

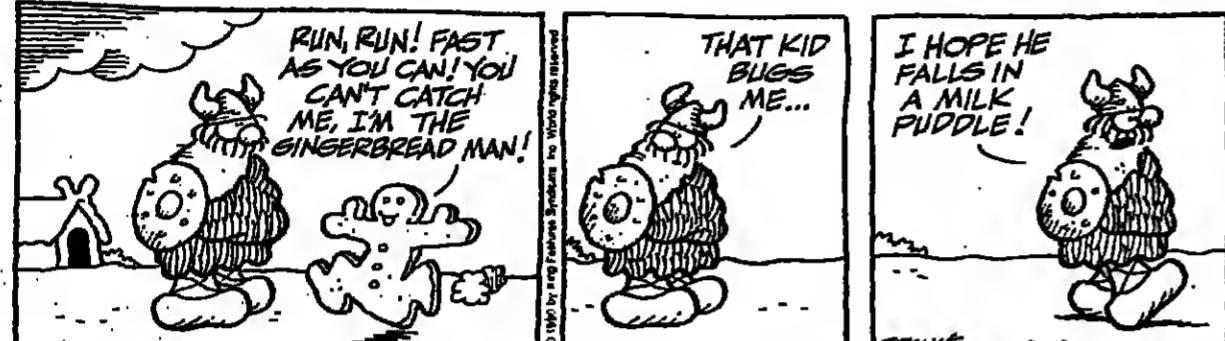
## BLONDIE

By Dean Young &amp; Stan Drake



## MAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Bill Brownie



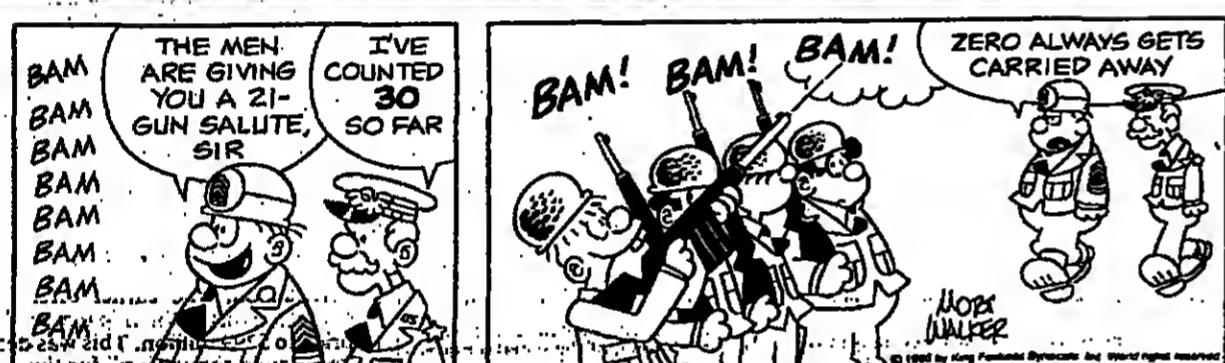
## AGATHA CRUMM

By Bill Hoest



## BEELE BY THEM

By Mark Walker



## THE BRAVE DO IT

By Mark Walker



## ANDY CAMP

By Mark Walker



Dear Fat Broad,

How can you give marital advice when you're not married?

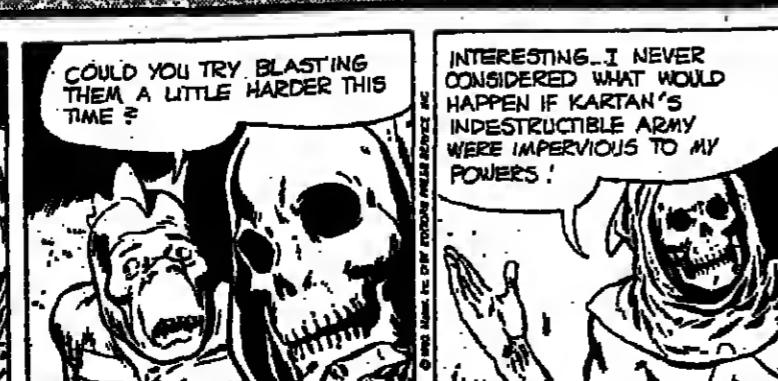
You don't have to be a fish to give swimming lessons.

ADVICE

COLUMN

ADVICE

COLUMN



## TODAY'S CROSSWORD

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

## FIND THE SETTING TRICK

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ 9 3 2

♥ 8

♦ A Q 8 7 5

♦ K 10 9 8

♦ Q 5

WEST

♦ K Q 10 8 7

♦ A 6

♥ J 6 3

♦ 10 9 4

♦ K J 6

♦ 10 4 3 2

♦ 7 6 4 3 2

EAST

♦ J 5 4

♦ A K Q 9 7 5 2

♦ 9

♦ A J

SOUTH

♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4

♦ 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♦ 7 6 4 3 2

Opening lead: King of ♠

When we were learning the game, we were told there are some things you "never" do. As we grew older, we found that what you should do is remove the use of the words "never" and "always" from your bridge vocabulary.

North's double of one spade was "negative," i.e., a takeout for the unbid suits. With interest in one suit, and only one, and eight tricks in hand, the vulnerable game was a reasonable shot and South took it.

West led the king of spades. East

overtook with the ace and returned a spade. West cashed a third spade trick to complete the defensive book. On this trick East discarded a low diamond. West shifted to the queen of clubs and, when trumps were no worse than 3-2, declarer had the rest of the tricks.

East would have done better to discard a low club rather than a diamond, to deny any interest in that suit, but West must shoulder the blame for not defeating the hand. Since South had not preempted at his opening turn, and bid strongly later, it was naive of West to think his partner might have the ace of clubs.

With the king of diamonds in front of dummy's ace-queen, West should have realized the defenders had no more tricks coming to them in the plain suits. If the contract could be defeated, the setting trick would have to come from the trump suit.

The only hope was that East held the ten of hearts and it could be used to uppercut declarer. West should have continued with a fourth round of spades and East can complete a winning defense by ruffing with the ten. That forces declarer to overruff with an honor and the jack of trumps is promoted to the setting trick.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BEDS	LAND	TANTE
ELIA	AVER	ADORE
ALLOT	TOLLE	MURAL
MERECHILDS	PLAY	LED
APPEAR	LIT	SAPS
MEALS	PORT	MIL
ITSAPIECEOFCAKE	NET	LEAS
DIBES	ILL	DOZED
TRA	AMI	ELDERS
ALEAD	PECINCH	TR
ALIEN	RARE	DELI
SMELT	OMER	LAUD
HADES	MASS	ELBE

## YOUR STARS

Aries  
March 21 - April 19Cancer  
June 21 - July 22Libra  
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22Capricorn  
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You will be able to do something very much to your liking. However beware, do not neglect what has to be done. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 27. Do not go to extremes. Be selective.

You will not be in the best of moods and should do your best not to get on anyone's nerves. Do not take any undue risks. A hobby you have been neglecting will give you a good deal of pleasure. Be forgiving.

If you have been invited make sure you are out late, but do not arrive early either. You should have a little more faith in yourself and confidence in others. You will know how to deal with a rather complicated situation. Be sensible.

Having thought hard, you will now be able to make an important decision. Look out for those who are trying to deceive you. You would do well to exercise just a little more self-control. Be tolerant.

Something you had hoped would happen but not quite as you had hoped it would. If you go to extremes or exaggerate you are liable to spoil everything. Stick to your principles and do not lose the courage of your convictions. Be more patient.

You will be able to do something to improve relations with your partner. You will be able to take some bad news in your stride. Avoid seeking to do too much all at once. Be moderate.

You will be able to have a good talk and that will clear the atmosphere. You will be able to resolve a more personal matter. Make sure you do not confuse kindness with charity, although there is no harm in the latter either. Be considerate.

Your nerves will tend to be rather on edge so do try to take it easy. Something you had been anticipating will not now happen. You will not be sure whether to be glad or sorry. Be fair.

Something you have been neglecting should be dealt with without further delay. You are liable to take too much for granted. Allow yourself a little more time for leisure pursuits. Be consistent.

You will be able to achieve a greater harmony with your partner. You should not neglect your health. You would do well to listen to what others have to say. Be generous.

Something you had hoped would happen but not quite as you had hoped it would. If you go to extremes or exaggerate you are liable to spoil everything. Stick to your principles and do not lose the courage of your convictions. Be scrupulous.

Having thought hard, you will now be able to make an important decision. Look out for those who are trying to deceive you. You would do well to exercise just a little more self-control. Be tolerant.

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## SNIPPETS

**Lawyer slain, wife wounded:** Cebu City — a Mandaua City lawyer was killed and his wife, the Cebu Schools Division superintendent, was wounded in an ambush in Barangay Pagsabungan, Mandaua City.

Lawyer Vicente Cabahug, 58, was driving the family car with his wife and a bodyguard when they were sprayed with bullets by a man.

Cabahug was hit in the head and died instantly. His wife, Susana was wounded in the face by glass shards from the windshield. Susana was taken to the Cortes Hospital in Mandaua City.

Susana told newsmen she did not see the gunman as her eyeglasses fell during the ambush.

**Awards for standouts:** The awarding ceremonies for the 1990 Don Juan Sumulong Awards for Outstanding Citizens of Rizal is scheduled to be held at the Bahay Kubo Restaurant in Antipolo, Rizal.

The Don Juan Sumulong Awards is an annual award given by the Don Juan Sumulong Foundation to citizens of Rizal who have made outstanding achievements in the arts, sciences, the professions, business and industry, public service and other fields of human endeavour.

It is being given in memory of the late Don Juan M. Sumulong, distinguished lawyer, senator and statesman.

Among the prominent citizens of Rizal expected to grace the awarding rites are House Majority Floorleader Francisco "Komong" Sumulong, Rep. Emigdio S. Tanjutco Jr., Rep. Jose Cojuangco Jr., Gov. Reynaldo San Juan, Vice-Governor Chito Barretto, the provincial board members, and the 14 mayors of the province.

**Four drug pushers arrested:** Four suspected drug pushers including an Army sergeant were arrested by PC Narcotics Command (Narcom) agents in raids in Mandaluyong, Makati, and Las Pinas. Some P33,500 worth of shabu was seized from them.

Narcom identified those arrested as Sgt. Nicancor de Guzman, an AWOL military personnel, George Dee, Nelson Rosello and Oscar Blancaflor.

Narcom said De Guzman was arrested near his house on Francis St, Mandaluyong with 13 grams of shabu and paraphernalia for its use.

Rosello was arrested while on his way to deliver shabu to a prospective buyer in Bel-air village in Makati.

In a raid on Dee's house in Vergonia Subdivision, Las Pinas, some 20 grammes of marijuana were confiscated from him.

De Guzman and Rosello allegedly named Dee as their source of illegal drugs.

Narcom agents also raided the house of Vernon Bautista and manel Acad in Las Pinas but the two men eluded arrest. The raiders instead picked up Blancaflor for possessing a gram of shabu.

**Pretty singer shot in face:** A pretty 20-year-old singer lost her good looks when she was shot pointblank in the face by her jealous lover in Cainta, Rizal.

Marilou Briones, 20, a singer of the El Barako disco pub on Ortigas Avenue and residing in San Roque, Cainta, is in serious condition in the hospital. She will have to undergo massive plastic surgery, doctors said.

Cainta Police Investigation Bureau chief Sgt. Honest Argame identified Briones' attacker as Sonny Velez of Taytay, Rizal. He is now detained at Cainta town jail on charges of frustrated homicide and illegal possession of firearm.

Investigators said Briones was singing on stage in El Barako when Velez and four companions arrived drunk.

Velez drunkenly requested Briones to sing their team song, witnesses told police.

Briones tried to calm him down but Velez instead pulled out his .38 "palit" revolver and shot his girlfriend in the face.

**Dole settles 3 labour disputes:** Labour disputes in three Southern Tagalog firms — Lakeview Industrial Corp., Peter Paul Phils. Corp., and Blue Bar Coconut Phils., Inc. — were settled, said Labour Secretary Ruben Torres.

The dispute at Lakeview involving some 450 workers arose when the company decided to stop operations due to lack of demands for its products last Dec. 1, 1988.

Last Feb. 26, labour and management agreed that each affected employee be paid the following — 20 days pay per year of service; P3,000 financial assistance; and one month pay in place of the shutdown notice requirement.

The dispute at Blue Bar involving some 1,800 workers arose when management suspended 13 employees without consulting the workers' union.

Labour and management agreed that the suspension of the 13 workers will be accepted and that employees found positive as salmonella-shigella (a virus disease) carriers may be allowed to go on leave with pay provided they still have leave credits.

Peter Paul with some 1,800 workers also agreed to give in to the demands of the workers as provided for in the conciliation agreement forged by NCMB conciliator Pol de Jesus.

**2 BIR men relieved:** Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Jose U. Ong yesterday relieved two revenue officials at the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) after a Cordillera BIR employee was caught accepting grease money from a taxpayer last week.

Relieved and transferred to the BIR men advisory council were regional director Max Gutierrez and regional district officer (RDO) Ben Perez.

BIR insiders said Gutierrez and Perez's new office has always been considered "bom for the aged" or "freezer".

The two were replaced by Noli Mapala and Angel Lumpias as acting BIR regional director and regional district officer respectively.

Gutierrez and Perez were relieved after one of the employees — a certain Rillera an alleged sister-in-law of Gutierrez — reportedly accepted P1,200 grease money in exchange for the settlement of a case with the BIR.

Rivera was arrested by National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents after receiving the marked money.

Meanwhile, the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office filed attempted estafa charges through falsification of public documents against a certain Garry Rojo for trying to encash a BIR tax refund check issued to one Ronaldo Bautista by presenting a special power of attorney with the Land Bank of the Philippines. Bautista signature was found to have been forged.

Rojo was arrested by BIR agents while encashing Bautista's P2,409.89 tax refund check last Jan 15.

**Bicol policeman killer identified:** A man jailed for illegal possession of a homemade gun two months ago turned out to be one of the five killers of a policeman in Bicol four years ago, Pasay City Police chief Lt Col Rogelio Domingo said.

Alfredo Dequilla, 42, alias Benedicto San Diego and Dequi, of 1185 Antipolo St Sampaloc, Manila, had been arrested by Pat Antonio Magdoso on Sementina St shortly before midnight on Jan 10 for carrying a homemade .38 revolver.

But Lt Felipe Napoles Jr., station commander of the San Lorenzo Ruiz Police Station in Camarines Norte, positively identified Dequilla as among the killers of his brother Fernando of the Dact Police Station.

Fernando was murdered by Dequilla's group on March 2, 1986, Napoles said.

Dequilla's co-accused who are still at large were identified by Napoles as Boy Llanto, Isabela Valero, Elmer Demin, and Medel Abejero, Napoles said.

**Laguna woman robbed:** A businesswoman was held up by seven men while on her way home in Sta Rosa, Laguna Wednesday night.

Vivian Velasco, 27, of Barangay Macabiling, Sta. Rosa, Laguna told police that two men in a motorcycle blocked their jeep at about 7:30 pm.

A red car with no licence plates came and five men with high-powered guns alighted and announced the holdup.

Velasco said the suspects took her wallet containing P10,000 and jewels.

The suspects escaped towards Calamba, Laguna, she said.

**Cattle rustlers hunted:** The Bulacan PC-INP command launched a massive manhunt for a group of cattle rustlers believed hiding in Candaba, Pampanga.

PC intelligence reports said that the cattle rustlers, armed with armalites, are operating in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Pampanga. They had already stolen seven cows and seven carabao last week in different barangays in San Miguel and San Ildefonso.

Capt. Emelito Sarmiento, 175th PC company commander, sent soldiers and policemen to Candaba following reports that a truck loaded with stolen animals was seen in Barangay Mapanique, Candaba.

San Miguel Police chief Lt Rufino Mendoza reported that last Feb 23, unidentified men entered a ranch in Barangay Pagala, San Miguel and took seven cows and loaded the animals in a truck.

# Human rights: too often the words remain empty

By Jon Miller

**BAGUIO CITY.** The Philippines (WNL): The dictator is not only gone, but dead. A new constitution has been written and democratic institutions have been restored. The tide seems to have turned in the Philippine government's favour in the 20-year-old war against communists. But in spite of it all, the human rights issue won't go away.

Lately it has become a heavy liability for the government of President Corazon C. Aquino. When she travelled to North America this past November to drum up support for her country's struggling economy, Aquino found herself face to face with placard-waving crowds demanding explanations for what many feel is a deteriorating human rights situation in the Philippines.

The protesters were armed with reports and statistics. They had names of victims and names of alleged perpetrators. And they had questions. Why has not a single person been convicted of a major human rights offense? Why is there still torture in Philippine jails? Why do government critics continue to be harassed, arrested, killed? And what, if anything, is being done about it?

Aquino's answer was that the issue that has blown out of proportion by extremist group on the left and the right. The government has well-established mechanisms for checking abuses she explained, and it is sincere and diligent in its efforts.

Pahito Sanidad is not convinced.

Sanidad, 45, whose father and brother were imprisoned by the late dictator, president Ferdinand Marcos, is national chairman of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), an influential organisation grouping human rights lawyers that was founded during Marcos' regime of martial law. "On paper, this country is a human rights paradise," Sanidad says, sitting in his cluttered office in this mountain city 200 kilometres north of Manila. "We have a government that has signed almost all the international

covenants in the field of human rights. We have better provisions in our Bill of Rights than in the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution."

"But it's only words. If we could see that these words were being earnestly translated into action, then we could buy it, and we could even support it. But the truth is, the rhetoric is not supported by action — even at the upper levels.

Aquino, whose husband was imprisoned and killed while Marcos was in power, has been stung by allegations that the human rights situation has not improved under her administration. But Sanidad, who has been doing human rights work since the early 1970s, says that most of the problems that existed under Marcos still exist today.

According to Sanidad, the situation is especially difficult for lawyers who donate their services to people accused of being rebels or rebel sympathizers. "Once you defend people who are considered national security offenders, who are suspected of having committed crimes against the state, then according to the military you are also a participant — you share the politics of your clients. That is not the case as far as lawyers are concerned, just it wouldn't be the case with doctors or other professionals," he notes.

Sanidad denies charges that human rights advocates are motivated by a desire to undermine the government. At least in the case of lawyers, it simply isn't true, he says. In fact, about half of FLAG's 300 members hold government positions.

Yet he admits that his early



quit soon afterward, convinced that things in the country remained basically unchanged.

"During Marcos' time, most of us in human rights organisations believed that if Marcos went, then we would lose the reason for being organised," he recalls. "What we see today, however, is a repetition of all the things that were happening under Marcos. The arrests, the harassment, the violence. The

reason for our existing is still there."

The statistics, unreliable as they may be, appear to bear him out. According to Task Force Detainees — a group that, along with the London-based Amnesty International, has been accused of bias by the Aquino government — the incidence of abuse is increasing. The task force estimates that there are over 300,000 internal refugees, people

forced to flee their homes as the result of violence.

But who is really to blame? Surely the Aquino government is not directing its soldiers to abuse the citizenry. True, Sanidad says, but "you see, this government is not really in control. There are a lot of elements in the country that seem to be moving around and acting on their own, without any kind of command from the centres of power."

Among these elements, be

says, are armed anti-communist paramilitary units. Many of those units evolved from fanatical religious groups, criminal gangs and private armies paid by wealthy landowners. They have been the leading source of concern among international human rights monitors.

Communication is also a major problem. Human rights-related directives issued by military or civilian leadership in Manila too rarely reach the regional or local levels, Sanidad explains.

His experience has shown that when a provincial military commander actually cares about human rights, the situation in his area can improve dramatically. That proves that it is possible to control abuses. But the central government apparently doesn't want to ruffle feathers in the military's restive middle ranks.

Sanidad says that the military leadership, which is more accessible and accommodating than it was under Marcos, does not always understand the idea of protecting human rights. "I was invited by the military to deliver a lecture before a group of colonels and upper-class officers, and the topic that they gave me alone would show you their thinking," he recalls with a smile. "They wanted me to speak on 'Human Rights Versus the Application of Justice,' because it was their thinking that if you apply justice, there is an inevitable violation of human rights."

The very definition of the term "human rights" is a point of contention: "The government's Commission on Human Rights, established shortly after Aquino assumed power, now considers

such civil crimes as usury and theft to the human rights violations, and it acts more like a court of last resort or an ombudsman than a watchdog.

That angers private human rights groups, which claim that the government's definition is too broad to be of any use. They say the internationally accepted definition of human rights applies only to government agents or opposing armies with official belligerency status.

This would be just an academic point if it weren't for the fact that there is an undeclared war going on. Human rights advocates say that by considering crimes committed by anti-government rebels to be human rights abuses, the government is trying to steer attention away from its own abuses. The government, on the other hand, says that human rights groups are choosing sides by ignoring rebel violations.

"They are using their expanded definition of human rights as if it were an excuse for military excesses," Sanidad says, adding that the government has a special responsibility to protect its citizens from the sort of abuse that was institutionalised during Marcos' regime.

But hasn't political violence come to be accepted as a part of life in the Philippines? Yes, Sanidad says, to a certain extent, but the government must accept some of the blame.

Commenting on the issue, Bishop Francisco Claver, one of the president's earliest advisers and now a member of the faculty of Ateneo University, put his finger squarely on the problems facing President Aquino: "Remember the prediction of his husband. He said that anyone who came after Marcos would fall flat on his face. Keeping that in mind, (Corey) has managed to stay on his feet for almost four years. Everything considered, she's doing all right."

The bishop continued: "I think our biggest problem is democracy. We are trying to work in a democratic way, when our whole history, our cultural tradition, is feudal and authoritarian. That's the conflict."

## Revilla: wit and humour

**JOHNNY** Revilla's present status is indeed a product of hardwork and discipline. His sacrifices, though, paid off. He has gone a long way and, gradually yet firmly, is heading for the top. Johnny's success is not a 24-hour reality. It was arduous attempt but he didn't fail. What he's reaping now are fruits of his fortitude, dedication, determination, confidence and his unrelenting intention to climb up the ladder of success in life. Johnny has never thought of reaching the brink of falling flat on the ground. It's the same factor that has launched his career into orbit and has propelled him to fame and glory. But it's his brains that made all the difference — proving the ineffable superiority of genuine talent.

You ask me of Johnny Revilla. I will tell you everything. He is, as you may suspect, a simple man, a good man, a man unafraid to work with his hands. Yet he chose to live by his wits, which he keeps about him in every circumstance. Johnny Revilla has done many miraculous things. He has scaled astounding heights. He has made important contacts. He has, in other words, gone where no Revilla had dared to go before.

If there's one wacky guy who would surely catch your funny bones off guard, it's Johnny Revilla. Through channel 4's weekday morning programme *Windows* (where he's a co-host opposite the beautiful Katherine de Leon), Johnny has found a place where he can make maximum use of his academic background and family breeding. His suave and pleasant aura immediately catches you where it's supposed to. His hilarious jokes grab your funny bones and shake them. Everybody who knows him would acknowledge the fact that Johnny is a witty wise-crack who try very hard not to run out of creative juices.

If there's one saying Johnny Revilla believes in strongly, it's "In normally, it takes me a long time to get going. That's why when I'm on *Windows* which is aired at 8:30 in the morning, I have to really wake-up. I would scream. Like this." He screamed with glee as he got up from his bed.

"When I was younger, one of the things I wanted to do was to become a stand-up comic," discloses Johnny. "I like performing in front of people. My friends, at that time, were much older than I was. They would invite me over to their houses when they had guests for me to tell my jokes to. Half of the jokes I know now, I can't repeat on print or on television.

Johnny got a chance to utilise his sense of humour to the max in *Windows*. When his co-host Katherine de Leon is on a serious topic, Johnny would throw in something pertaining to the subject but off-the-wall. He's got a lot of explaining to do to *Windows*' avid viewers for the character.

"The reason the characters come in the show is because it's an outlet for me," Johnny explains. "I've always had this fascination for stand-up comedians. Although the show tends to be a little bit more serious because we have our open forum segment, *Windows* is generally on the serious nature except when I cook. You see, they always wanted me to be somewhat *kenkoy*, you know. It's fine with me because I'm normally like that. So, I fool around when I do the cooking segment."

And that, Johnny does. Would you believe he did a cooking script in which he played a character named "Julie Signacion Daza"? That's a combination of Julia Childs, Armidia Signacion-Reyna and Nora Daza. All three are known for their cooking programmes on television. In portraying this out-of-the-world character, Johnny dresses up as a woman — complete with a bra and the whole nine yards. At one time, viewers and crew of *Windows* alike almost rolled on floors in spontaneous laughter when Johnny wore a Dracula outfit while cooking *dringuan*. But don't get him wrong. Johnny, the culinary buff that he is, can cook in real life.

But how would he describe his own sense of humour? "Well, I like life," Johnny starts. "I think life without laughter is like 'What's the point of living?' — that's sort of thing. I mean, it's fun to laugh. I can laugh at myself, with myself. I try not to laugh at somebody. It's great to have a good time. Especially in the morning when people wake up grumpy, and you laugh a little. That's a plus."





# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Three indices surge

# Market turns mixed

THE Alshaih Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 40.35 points with an increase of 0.07 point—0.17 per cent—over last week's average. The Alshaih index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 64.48 with a decrease of 0.18 point—0.28 per cent—for the same period, according to Alshaih weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 45.39 million shares at a daily average of 9.08 million shares with a decrease of 13 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 10.38 million shares. Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 4.78 million shares at a daily average of 0.956 million shares with an increase of 369 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.204 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD21.17 million at a daily average of KD4.23 million, a decrease of 3 per cent from last week's daily average of KD4.45 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.235 million at a daily average of KD0.047 million, an increase of 422 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.009 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the Banking Sector came first at 73 per cent of total trading against 63 per cent last week. The National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 30 per cent, followed by Kuwait Finance House at 26 per cent and the Gulf Bank at 16 per cent. The Investment Sector came second at 13 per cent in which Coast Investment and Development Company had the lead at 53 per cent followed by Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 43 per cent and National Investments Company at 2 per cent. The Services Sector came third at 10 per cent in which Mobile Telephone Systems Company had the lead at 81 per cent followed by the Public Warehousing Company at 19 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain International Bank had the lead at 70 per cent, followed by the Arabian General Investment Company (Shua'a) at 17 per cent and Umm-Al-Qaiwain Cement Industries Company at 13 per cent.

The market gave signs of mixed performance as three of the six indices increased while the rest decreased. In the Kuwaiti shares market the decrease in activity was more pronounced as two of its indices fell while the third increased. In the first four days of trading the shares market was more active than the last day (Wednesday) which led to the decrease in the indices of both markets. It is clear now and from previous experiences that these cycles of false activity, are taking shorter periods of time which we consider as a logical improvement.

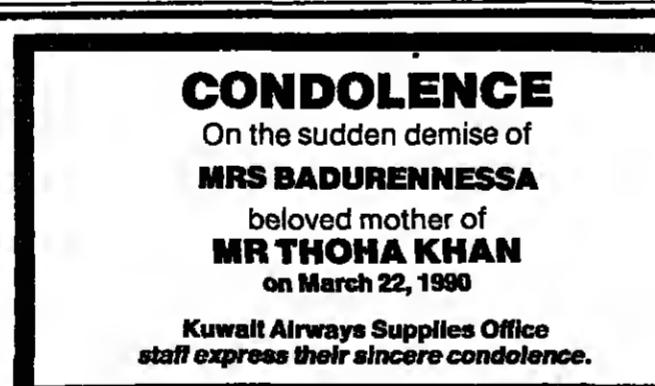
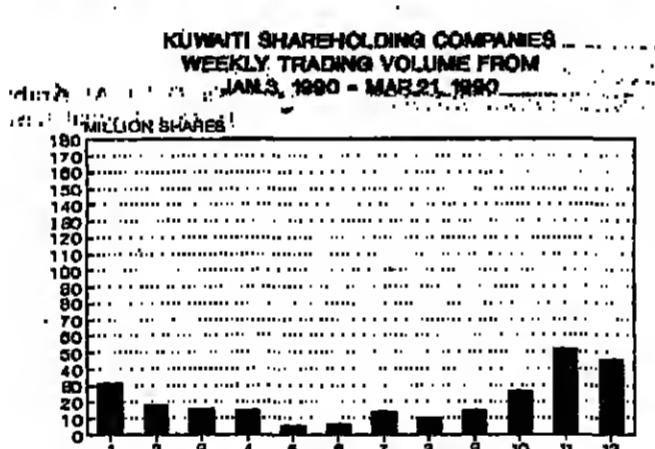
No new declaration of dividends was made in the past two weeks. Total companies that declared distributions in the Kuwaiti shares market stayed at 28 companies (63.6 per cent) out of a total of 44 listed companies.

### Kuwait shareholding companies Index

	Wed.	Wed.	Change
	21/03/90	14/03/90	points
<b>Banking Sector</b>			
The National Bk.	130.52	130.52	—
The Gulf Bk.	31.48	31.92	-0.44
The Comm. Bk.	24.59	24.59	—
Al Ahli Bk.	31.79	32.29	-0.50
Bk of Kt & ME	31.44	31.44	—
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	30.27	30.00	0.27

Kt. Finance House	83.52	81.57	1.95
<b>Sector Index</b>	<b>50.41</b>	<b>50.44</b>	<b>-0.03</b>
Kt. Inv. Inv. Co.	8.72	8.72	—
Al. Inv. Inv. Co.	8.59	8.59	—
IFA	23.16	23.16	—
Comm. Facilities	162.25	154.00	8.25
National Inv.	57.84	55.88	1.96
Kt. Inv. Proj.	88.76	89.89	-1.12
Coast Inv. & Dev.	87.06	85.88	1.18
<b>Sector Index</b>	<b>32.31</b>	<b>31.65</b>	<b>0.65</b>
Kt. Sector	35.88	35.88	—
Kt. Ins. Co.	23.08	23.08	—
Al. Ahlia Ins.	50.84	50.84	—
Warha Ins. Co.	50.69	50.69	—
<b>Sector Index</b>	<b>35.74</b>	<b>35.74</b>	<b>—</b>
Kt. Real Est.	12.11	12.11	—
Utd. Realy.	5.35	5.35	—
Nat. Real Est.	39.42	39.42	—
Pearl of Kt.	63.49	63.49	—
<b>Sector Index</b>	<b>15.33</b>	<b>15.33</b>	<b>—</b>
Ind. Sector	10.22	10.22	—
Kt. Cmt. Co.	84.55	82.36	2.20
Ref. Ind.	115.39	113.13	2.26
Gulf Cables	60.44	60.44	—
Kt. Pharm.	29.16	28.76	0.39
<b>Sector Index</b>	<b>40.35</b>	<b>40.28</b>	<b>0.07</b>
<b>Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies Index</b>			
Wed.	21/03/90	14/03/90	Change
First G. Bk.	236.84	236.84	—
Bah. Int'l. Bk.	81.38	81.38	—
Bah. M. E. Bk.	94.92	94.92	—
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua'a)	43.94	44.70	-0.76
Umm Al Q. Cmt.	17.25	17.25	—
G. Med. Proj.	13.13	13.13	—
<b>Total Index</b>	<b>64.48</b>	<b>64.66</b>	<b>-0.18</b>

21/03/90 14/03/90 Change points  
—Base period 31/12/1983.  
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.



## Wang dies at 70

BOSTON, March 24, (UPI): An Wang, the computer entrepreneur who founded Wang Laboratories Inc., died of esophageal cancer today at Massachusetts General Hospital. He was 70.

Hospital spokesman Martin Bander said Wang, who was chairman and chief executive officer of the company he founded in 1951, died at 5:31 a.m. He had been readmitted to the hospital March 6 for follow-up treatment on a malignant tumour removed on July 14.

Symptoms of the tumour first appeared in March 1989 when Wang experienced trouble swallowing and surgery was performed by Dr. Hermes Grillo, a world expert on surgery of the esophagus.

"That is a particularly difficult form of cancer," said Bander. Born in Shanghai, China, Wang came to the United States to study in the mid-1940s and earned a doctorate in physics at Harvard University.

### CONDOLENCE

On the sudden demise of  
**MRS BADURENNESSA**  
beloved mother of  
**MR THOHA KHAN**  
on March 22, 1990

Kuwait Airways Supplies Office  
staff express their sincere condolence.

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### EXHIBITION DETAILS

#### ATTENTION - STOP PRESS - ATTENTION

**DUE TO DEMAND**  
Fenton Consultants will be staying a  
further 2 days (Sun 25th and Mon 26th  
March) to conduct private

Telephone: Peter Bellings Room No.  
1553 Phone: 2530000  
to arrange a convenient  
appointment of the

**KUWAIT  
INTERNATIONAL  
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FOXTONS  
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Second home, first choice

## Accounting conference concluded

THE second Arab International Accounting Conference concluded its meetings on Thursday which was held under the patronage of the Crown Prince of Jordan, Prince Hassan bin Talal and was attended by a number of Arab and international distinguished professionals.

In the closing session of a number of resolutions and recommendations were taken to better establish the role of accounting in the economic and social development process in the Arab world and to acquire more involvement of the Arab accountants in the international accounting organisation.

The conference resolved the following:

- Establish centres in more Arab capitals for the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (Asca) qualification examination to give a chance to more than half a million accountants eager to be qualified.
- Choose a day to be declared the Arab Accountants day. It was suggested that it should be the day Prince Hassan first announced the recognition of Asca certificates.
- Co-ordinate with other sectors in particular universities, governments and economic sectors to develop co-operation programmes between them and the accounting profession.
- Continue to issue the "Arab Certified Accountant" magazine which enters its fourth successful year and ensure that it contains articles emphasising that accountants are not merely bookkeepers but leaders in this society.

- Emphasised the importance of holding this conference once every three years. It was resolved that the next conference be held during the second half of October 1993, in Cairo, Egypt.
- Underline the importance of documenting the conference's papers and minutes in a book.
- Concentrate on the educational role of Asca to better highlight the accountants role in the development process.

The conference recommended the following:

The importance of changing the International Federation of Accountants (Ifac) constitution to have better representation of all countries of the world by giving a larger role to developing countries in general and the Arab countries in particular.

Form an accounting standards committee in co-operation with Asca, Arab governments and Arab and international organisations to develop the Arab accounting standards.

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## Message to traders

## 'Every bubble must burst'

TOKYO. March 24. (API): As a hectic week of pessimism and repeated plunges shaved more than 6.9 per cent off the main index on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the message to traders was clear: every bubble must burst.

"Over the past few years the stock market in this country has been a repetition of share prices going up because of buying, and buying because of share prices going up," said an editorial in the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, an influential economic journal.

"As excessive price-earnings ratios indicate, share prices have been detached from actual industrial conditions, and the bubble has grown larger and larger. But every bubble must burst," the editorial said Friday. "That time has come."

The Nikkei stock average, which closed the week Friday at 30,372.16 points, had fallen a combined 2,773.1 points during the three previous trading days.

After closing for a national holiday Wednesday, the market on Thursday broke the psychological 30,000-point barrier, with the 225-issue Nikkei index closing at 29,843.34, its lowest finish since the 29,741.28 points recorded on Dec. 24, 1988.

Traders noted that the Nikkei, which rose 8,756.87 points in 1989, had already lost 9,072.93 points, or 23 per cent, this year.

"The bottom is almost here," said Kenji Maehiro, a stock analyst with Yamachiro Securities Co.

The plunge prompted Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to lament that his ministry was monitoring the markets "with anguish."

Both the Bank of Japan governor Yasushi Mieno agreed that the stock and currency markets were influencing each other, sending both down.

Seeking to avert inflation and stabilize the financial markets, Mieno on Tuesday announced a much-awaited 1 percentage-point increase in Japan's official discount rate. The rate charged for central bank loans to commercial banks now stands at 5.25 per cent.

Mieno said, however, that results from the increase should not be expected to appear immediately, and the increase failed to stop the dollar's rise.

Through a 528.82-point rebound Friday, the Nikkei index hinted of confidence returning to the market. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry began action to assess the effects of the losses so far.

Min decided to launch a nationwide survey to gauge the impact on companies' investment in equipment and facilities, profits, and prices of imported raw materials, said a ministry official.

The ministry action came as Mazda, a leading automaker, reportedly decided to scale back sales targets for a new luxury car because of fears the bearish market and weak yen — the dollar gained 2.87 yen over the last six trading days — might spill over and dampen consumers' extravagance in general.

"As far as I know, this is the first such survey, by Min," said the official, requesting anonymity. "But this does not mean we think the situation very serious. We worry, rather, that our moves might accelerate the public anxiety and worsen their economic prospects for the future, so we are trying not to make a fuss about it."

## Exchange Rates

	Indian rupee	17.240
Sri Lankan rupee	17.440	
Pakistani rupee	13.860	
Bangladesh taka	8.630	
US dollar	29445	
Pound sterling	47250	
UAE dirham	08014	
Deutsche mark	17225	
Japanese yen	001920	

GENEVA. March 24. (AP): A new UN report issued yesterday paints a bleak picture of the world's 42 poorest countries becoming poorer, with economic growth lagging behind the population explosion.

It put the blame on domestic policy failures and a lack of international assistance, and urged "enormous endeavours" to reverse the decline.

Economic growth outpaced population increases in only five countries — Bhutan, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Maldives and Yemen.

Bhutan, Cape Verde, and Yemen, together with Burkina Faso and Guinea-Bissau also achieved a better growth rate in agricultural production, more than 4 per cent annually.

A special UN conference to deal with the situation in the least developed countries and consider possible action is to convene in

Paris next September.

The secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Uctad, which compiled the 250-page report, called for a relief programme that would double development assistance and eliminate bilateral debt.

Agricultural production, affected in some countries by drought or disastrous floods, only grew by 2.0 per cent annually, half of the targeted growth. At the same time, the population increased by 2.4 per cent every year to present estimated total of 440 million.

If present demographic trends continue, the population of the Third World is expected to increase to 4.8 billion by the year 2015 — a 65 per cent increase — with the population of the poorest countries almost doubling to 882 million.

The report called for "firm commitments

for the political and financial support necessary to execute family planning programmes."

Average annual gross domestic product growth in the least developed countries, or LDCs, was a mere 2.3 per cent during 1980-88, compared with a target of 7.2 per cent set by a special UN conference in 1981, according to the 250-page report.

By UN-established criteria, the term LDC applies to countries with a per capita domestic product of less than \$427, a literacy rate of less than 20 per cent, and a manufacturing share of less than 10 per cent of the total gross domestic product.

The total outstanding debt in the 42 least developed countries doubled between 1982 and 1988 to \$69 billion, while their share of world exports declined to 0.3 per cent in 1988, down from 1.4 per cent in 1980.

World prices for primary commodities

which still make up about two thirds of their total exports are declining.

Domestic economic adjustment programmes failed to get sufficient external financial support and achieved "at most, limited success," said the report. Lack of financial resources also forced cutbacks on spending for social services, it added.

But the report said their domestic policies had also been an important factor in restricting export development, citing exchange rate policies, public sector monopolies, inflexible pricing policies, subsidised or uneconomic production ventures, and a "relative neglect of the role of the private sector."

The report said rising demand for food, water, land, firewood, and other natural resources had further aggravated an already precarious ecological balance in many of the countries.

It said a new class of displaced persons have emerged in these countries in the 1980's — environmental refugees.

Growing human pressure on the natural environment has either rendered ecosystems more vulnerable or triggered off a self-reinforcing process of natural degradation, or both," it said. "As a result, more people are affected by natural catastrophes, such as landslides, cyclones, earthquakes and flood than before."

The Uctad secretariat said that the countries could reach an annual growth rate of some 5 per cent in the latter part of the 1990's "if they are at the same time provided with an amount of official development assistance increasing to a level of \$3.6 billion (in 1988 prices) by the year 2000."

This would imply, the secretariat said, that donors should double their official assistance in the next five years and provide 0.2 per cent of their gross national product by the end of the 1990's. Currently, donors provide an average 0.09 per cent of their GNP.

Official bilateral debt should be written off by all creditor countries in accordance with an Uctad resolution already adopted in 1978.

The 42 "LDCs" surveyed were Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Laos, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Burma, Nepal, Niger, Ruanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, Tanzania, Vanuatu and Yemen.

## Economic growth lagging behind population explosion

## World's poorest countries getting poorer

## Oman's GNP growth accelerates

## Private sector to get a boost

DUBAI, March 24, (Reuter): Oman aims to increase the role of its private sector but will maintain state spending to stimulate growth in the short term, the country's finance chief said.

"Government spending is still the major dynamic force for economic activity," said Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qais Bin Abdulmonim Al Zawawi.

"At present the government is studying ... what assets could be transferred to the private sector," he said in the latest bi-monthly Central Bank Report.

Zawawi said that to qualify for greater public ownership, companies should be well managed, make a profit, and be registered on the Oman Stock Exchange.

"Government financial resources depend mainly on oil

revenues, which make up 80 per cent of the 1990 total revenues," Zawawi said.

"Therefore it was essential to base oil revenue estimates on a realistic assumption of oil prices."

He said the government's 1990 budget estimated the average annual price of a barrel of oil at \$15, compared to an actual \$15.80 last year.

Zawawi said the budget assumed the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) would abide by its oil output quotas and that non-Opec producers, among which Oman plays a leading role, would continue to back Opec efforts to stabilise prices.

Independent economists believe 1990 average oil prices could be higher than \$15 per

barrel, which could cut Oman's predicted budget deficit for the year of \$13.4 million rials (\$814 million), against 407.6 million rials (\$1.01 billion) in 1989.

A big drop in revenues after an oil price crash in 1986 and a subsequent recession taught the government to err on the side of caution.

The main budget details were announced at the beginning of the year. Budget revenue for 1990 was raised 20.5 per cent to 1.4 billion rials (\$3.6 billion), with spending raised 9.2 per cent to 1.71 billion rials (\$4.44 billion).

Last month Oman reported an eight per cent rise in gross national product in the first nine months of 1989 over the same period of 1988, to 2.46 billion rials (\$6.38 billion).

## Pledge to co-operate on economic policy

LOS ANGELES, March 24. (UPI): US Treasury Secretary Nicolas Brady and Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto pledged Friday to co-operate on economic policy, following a week of turbulence on the Japanese financial markets.

Brady, at a news conference following a day of meetings with Hashimoto, said the United States made no concessions in any economic areas.

Japanese politicians have been calling for help from the United States in stabilising the soaring dollar to calm their financial markets, which have been stalled by a sharp decline in the Japanese yen.

Brady and Hashimoto issued a joint statement saying that they had discussed developments in global financial markets and agreed to keep these developments under review. In addition, they reaffirmed their commitment to economic policy co-operation, including co-operation in the exchange markets, the statement said.

Brady, in an effort to provide confidence to investors, said the world financial markets appear to be unshaken by the problems in Japan, where the Nikkei index posted its lowest close in 15 months Thursday.

"Even though there has been a 20 per cent decline in the Japanese market, the rest of the world's markets have operated in a stable manner," Brady said.

The Japanese markets stabilised to finish moderately higher Friday, following a week of heavy losses.

Hashimoto did not appear at the 15-minute news conference. However, the joint statement said the two officials discussed a range of bilateral and multilateral issues, including the structural impediments initiative, the International Monetary Fund and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Brady also said there were discussions about recent political and economic developments in Eastern Europe.

The Treasury Secretary said the discussions with Hashimoto were also a prelude to economic meetings next month of the Group of Seven nations.

However, the US official said a proposal by the Bank of Japan to issue dollar-denominated government bonds was not discussed.

A Japanese news agency said earlier that Hashimoto would broach with Brady the plan to issue the government bonds to back up the ongoing effort to stop the yen's decline.



Protests against economic policies

Argentine union leader Saul Ubaldini protests against President Carlos Menem's economic policies during a march in central Buenos Aires. Tens of thousands of government employees participated in the second mass protest against Menem in less than a week. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Wall Street watch

## Bull market could be driven out

But the effect could come roaring back, some experts believe. If the Tokyo market falls so severely, Japanese investors are forced to sell their US stocks — use cash for obligations at home.

"We may run into some rough sledding," said Bill Raftery, an analyst at Smith Barney, Harris Upham and Co. "That's where the selling pressure could come in."

Much will depend on the dollar. Its strength has helped fuel the market's recent rally.

The dollar's gains are seen as a testimony to the stability and favourable long-term prospects of the US economy, at a time when the world political and economic landscape is changing fast.

"The economy is showing surprising pockets of strength," said Frank Cappiello, a principal of McCullough, Andrews and Cappiello Inc. in Baltimore. "People see this as a market of preference."

The New York Stock Exchange composite index slipped 2.47 to 185.45; the Nasdaq composite index of over-the-counter trading lost 4.91 to 437.25, and the American Stock Exchange's market value index dropped 2.57 to 361.61.

Bombay shares			
Pr. Close	Open	Close	
339	388	398	
Cen Spg	2990	3970	3050
Colgate	227.50	227.60	230
Ari Fab	925	940	950
Crom Gr	16	15.50	16.50
DCM	32	31.75	32.50
Des Fert	56	55	57.50
Dunlop	63	61	63
EI Hotels	87	86	86
Escorts	86	85.50	85.50
BSE Index	739.22	757.76	757.76
Blow Plast	142.50	143.75	143.75
Bom Dye	190	186.50	190
2K Bond	105	115	113
Burr Wel	85	82.50	83.75
Canshare	3200	3200	3250
Cen Enka	101	101	102
Glinda			

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.

US administration projects budget deficit of \$63.1b in fiscal 1991

## Most economists expect significant slowdown this year

ON JANUARY 31, 1990, President Bush presented his administration's plan for the fiscal 1991 US federal budget, ushering in a new phase of discussions on the subject. The federal deficit has become a matter of public concern during the 1980s when the tax-cutting and increased defence spending policies adopted by President Reagan ballooned the deficit from \$7.8 billion in 1980 to \$212.6 billion in 1986. The total government budget deficit (including state and local government) has risen from an average of 0.9 per cent of GNP in the 1970s to 3.7 per cent since 1986.

In December 1985, a law was passed, known as the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill after the names of its sponsors (Gramm-Rudman or GRH) which set annual targets for the budget deficit with the eventual aim of achieving a balanced budget by 1991. The two-year balance year was later

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## Players to get wages for loss of earnings

LONDON, March 24. (Reuters): Rugby union players can now be compensated for loss of earnings in home internationals but the sport's governing body has deferred a decision on payments for activities associated with the game.

In a statement yesterday after this week's annual meeting, the IRFB said players could receive a maximum £20 (\$52) a day while preparing for and playing in a home international. At present players can be compensated on tour only.

"These payments are at the discretion of each union and are not to exceed the actual financial disadvantage," the statement said.

The board postponed any decision on payments for activities such as advertising, broadcasting and writing books and articles until its interim meeting in October. At present players are barred from making any money from their association with the game.

The chairman of the board's amateurism committee, Sir Ewart Bell of Ireland, said New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, France and Wales had favoured amending the present laws.

Ireland had opposed any change while England and Scotland were prepared to consider amendments.

"There are some in rugby football who don't wish to see any development at all," Sir Ewart said.

"There are some who want to go quite a way down the road and this includes a number to top players."

Sir Ewart said a working party comprising representatives from Ireland, England, Wales and New Zealand would examine ways in which further changes in the regulations could be made acceptable to all member unions.

"I would hope that the process can be brought to an end by October," he said.

Sir Ewart was asked for the IRFB's opinion on New Zealand players who formed companies with the sole purpose of promoting themselves commercially.

"I think that it's perfectly legitimate to do it," Sir Ewart replied. "It has to be their full-time bona fide occupation."

South Africa's Fritz Elhoff, whose term as chairman ends after this week's meeting, said his country were unlikely to bid for the 1995 World Cup.

"Very important changes are taking place in South Africa," he said. "But perhaps 1995 will be just too early. It's very difficult to say."

South Africa did not take part in the 1987 World Cup and have not been invited to participate in next year's cup either.

The IRFB also confirmed that Kenya and Namibia had been accepted as associate members, bringing the total membership to 44 unions.

It will now consider restructuring the board so that all associate members become full members while the present eight members will be joined by five other unions to form an executive council.

## Vendiola, Opiana remain undefeated



Niel Dumla and Danny Calasin in their fourth round match.

KDD, OTC, KPBC and EEI win

## Nissan take KAI to task

NISSAN Al Babtain, KDD, Overland, KPBC and EEI posted contrasting victories at the start of the "KPBL" — Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League 1st Conference tournament. The Keifai High School Gym was once again filled to its capacity and the crowd that came to witness the games were delighted by the brand of basketball exhibited.

Nissan Al Babtain 82 — KAI 67

Nissan Al Babtain subdued KAI for Associates to lead 1-0 in its Best Of 3 Games-Series with KAI for the 9th and 10th places. It was a close 1st half as the combination of Kai, Marin, Alvendia, Evangelista, and Galicha scored 39 points to keep their team within striking distance of its virtual conqueror. Halftime score stood at 44-39 in favour of Nissan. In the second half, KAI's depleted bench, playing minus its veteran Romeo Velasco, paid the price as fatigue caught up with them and they managed to score only 28 points compared to Nissan's 38. Top scorers for Nissan were Abajero 19, Perez 19, Garcia 15, Deters 13 and Castillo 8. KAI was paced by "Atoy" Kai 32, Marin 13, Evangelista 10 and Alvendia 7. The Mabuhay Best Player of the Game was awarded to Edison Abajero.

KDD 84 — KRP 80

KDD-Kuwaiti Danish Dairy playing with only 6 men escaped with victory over KRP-Kuwait Regency Palace in another cardiac finish, characteristic of the "KPBL" games. Halftime score stood at 39-39, as both sides played serious basketball to the delight of the crowd. In the second-half, KDD got a bonus of sorts as KRP's Speedy Bolito had to be taken off the court as he accidentally stepped on a foot of a KDD dribbler. Minus Bolito, KRP was left vulnerable with its offence suffering the most and KDD went on to win despite having only 4 playears at the final buzzer. KDD was again paced by Pizarro 24, Rue 18, Ramirez 17, Linganay 11, Francisco 9, and Dominguez 5. KRP was led by Matudio 23, Osorio 18, De Jesus 17, Nardo 7 and Bolito 7. The Mabuhay Best Player of the Game was awarded to Eric Pizarro.

The "KPBL" meeting



The graduates of the day Ramirez (left) and Rua (center) of KDD and Matudio of KRP.

Overland 102 — Al Ghanim 94

In a high scoring ball game, Overland Transport Co. defeated Al Ghanim Freight & Travel. It was closer than the scores indicate as Al Ghanim led at halftime 47-39 courtesy of Velasco, Dayao, Galicia, Ungco, and Ragudon. In the second-half Al Ghanim, missing the services of its ace playmaker Nelson Garcia was outgunned by the OTC 56-47. Final tally was OTC 102, Al Ghanim 94.

Overland was again led by "Billy-Ray" Hulk Hogan Navarro 36, Martinez 22, Pineda 17, Moya 8, Veluz 7 and Atendido 6. Al Ghanim was



The "KRP" dancers providing half-time numbers

paced by Velasco 32, Ungco 17, Galicia 16, Dayao 15 and Macatangay 6. The Mabuhay Best Player of the game was Billy Ray/Hulk Hogan Navarro, his third time in the entire 1st conference tournament.

KPBC 103-Trico 93

In another high scoring ball game, KPBC maintained its composure to outlast Trico International 103-93 for its first win in the Single Round Robin Championship. Halftime score stood at 52-43 in favour of KPBC, as they dominated both sides of the boards once again reminiscent of their One-Day Championship encounter. In the second-half, Trico's com-

bination of Reyes, Menes, Babiera, Vargas and Calaycay gave the KPBC dribblers a run for their money closing in several times, the last with 3:06 minutes remaining and score at 91-88. However, 5 uncompleted fastbreak inbound plays sealed their fate as KPBC converted on each offensive, 10 unanswered points to be exact.

Leading scorers for KPBC

were The "Macho Man From

Adan" — Edwin Castro 24, Ric

"Tigas" Perez 23, De La Cruz

18, Emie "Carnation Baby"

Domingo 11, the "Heart-break

Kid" Barcelona 10 and Argan-

iza 9. Trico International in its gallant stand was led by Reyes

39, Menes 21, Babiera 16,

Ateniza 8 (first half only) and

Vargas 6. The Mabuhay Best

Player of the Game was awarded to Ric "Pigas" Perez, 59"

guard-forward from Kamuning, Quezon City.

EEL 130 — KHC-Bayan 103

EEL scored its 1st win in the Championship Round by blasting KHC-Bayan 130-103. EEL with all 10 players scoring 4 points or more out-gunned its opponent reminiscent of their One-Day Championship encounter. The KHC-Bayan however put up a gallant stand leading several times during the 1st-half of action to the delight of the pro-KHC crowd before being subdued by the fast-breaking EEL 5. Halftime score was 58-47 in EEL's favour. In the second half EEL showed its

"KPBL" meeting

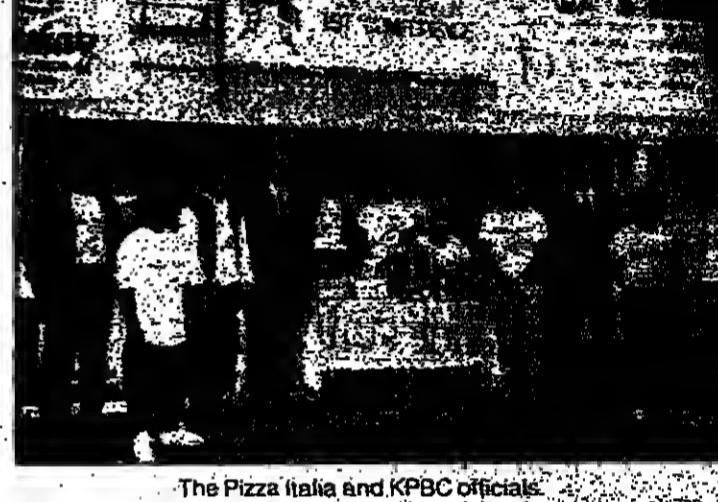
A "KPBL" meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 26 at the Mabuhay Restaurant at 8:00 pm. Topics to be discussed shall include among others the KPBL 2nd-Conference which includes an open-Expatiates tournament, regular tournaments, ladies basketball & volleyball tournaments, three points shoot-out and the possibility of bringing the Manila based PBA teams to Kuwait for a 3-day exhibition series with a KPBL selection and 2 Kuwaiti ball clubs.



The Green Team



The Red Team



The Pizza Italia and KPBC officials

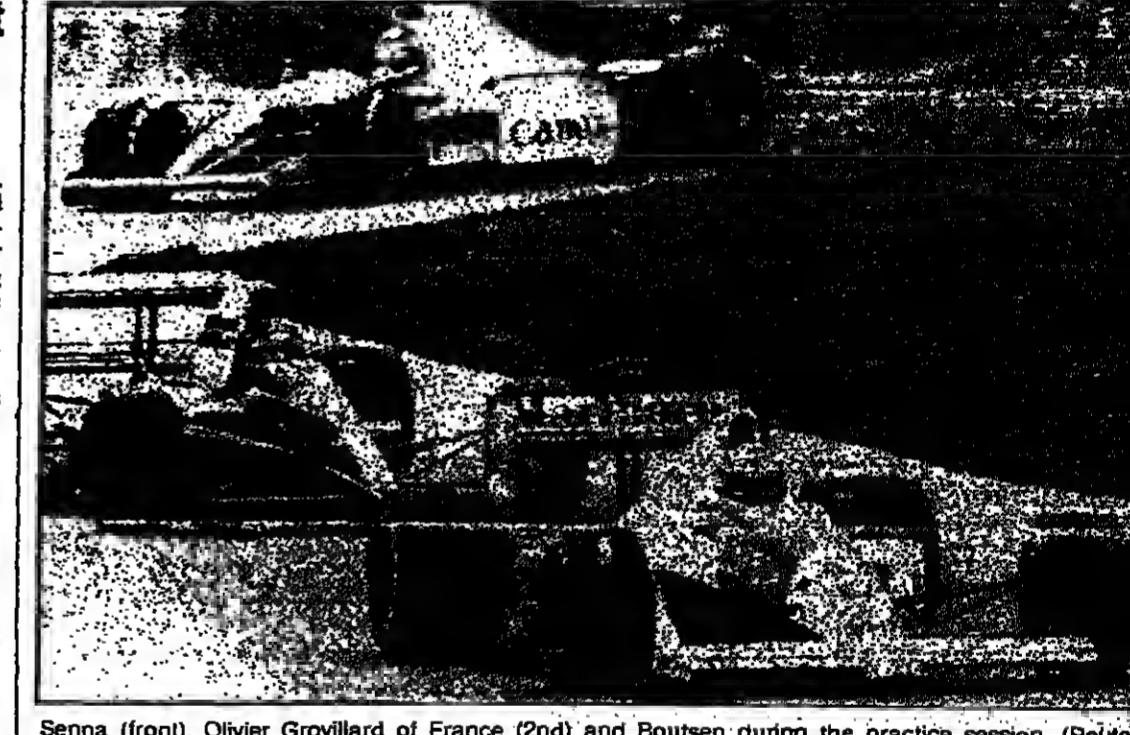
## Timman takes time-out

KUALA LUMPUR, March 24. (Reuters): Jan Timman of the Netherlands took time-out from the ninth game of the World Candidates Chess Final against Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union today.

The game will take place on Monday with Timman, who has not failed for his second and last time out of the 12-game match, playing white.

Each player is allowed two time-outs and Karpov has used one. Karpov beat Timman in 38 moves in the eighth game yesterday and currently leads by 5.5 points to 2.5; the winner is the first to reach 6 points.

Karpov is one win away from another chance to take the title from world champion Gary Kasparov, also of the Soviet Union, and 2 Kuwaiti ball clubs.



Senna (front), Olivier Grouillard of France (2nd) and Boutsen during the practice session. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Senna claims provisional pole

SAO PAULO, Brazil, March 24. (Reuters): Ayrton Senna claimed provisional pole position for tomorrow's Brazilian Grand Prix with another blistering demonstration of his special driving skills during yesterday's opening qualifying session on his home town circuit.

The Brazilian clocked a fastest time of one minute, 17.769 seconds mid way through a session run in welcome dry conditions after several days of heavy rain.

Rainey's early form increases the pressure on Yamaha rider Lawson and Schwantz, who is bidding for his third successive win at his favourite Suzuki circuit.

Former world champion Wayne Gardner of Australia, forced to miss five races after breaking his left leg in the US Grand Prix last April, took his Honda to third place in 2:10.446.

Lawson was fourth in 2:10.525

and Australian Michael Doohan, fifth with 2:11.167 on his

Honda.

American John Cocinski headed 250cc practice with 2:14.273.

Gaston triumphs

LLORET DE MAR, Spain, March 25. (AP): Spanish rider Inaki Gaston won the 27th Catalonian week cycling race

and Mathijs Hermans of the Netherlands won the fifth and last leg yesterday.

Hermans won the 154.5

kilometre (95.7-mile) leg with

start and finish in Lloret de Mar

and studded with three mountain

peaks in three hours, 56 minutes

and 37 seconds.

Sixth round schedule

Friday, March 30, 1990.

Group B (12.00 noon)

W vs B: 8-6; 5-2; 3-9; 16-4;

17-15; 13-7; 14-20; 18-1.

Group A (3.00 pm)

W vs B: 18-11; 13-3; 8-16; 7-

1; 2-15; 12-9; 19-17; 4-Bye.

Group C (4.00 pm)

W vs B: 15-10; 11-7; 13-12;

14-9; 17-11; 18-15; 19-16.

Group D (5.00 pm)

W vs B: 16-13; 17-14; 18-15;

19-16; 20-17; 21-18; 22-19.

Group E (6.00 pm)

W vs B: 22-19; 23-20; 24-21;

25-22; 26-23; 27-24; 28-25.

Group F (7.00 pm)

W vs B: 29-26; 30-27; 31-28;

32-29; 33-30; 34-31; 35-32.

Group G (8.00 pm)

W vs B: 36-33; 37-34; 38-35;

39-36; 40-37; 41-38; 42-39.

Group H (9.00 pm)

W vs B: 43-40; 44-41; 45-42;

46-43; 47-44; 48-45; 49-46.

Group I (10.00 pm)

W vs B: 50-47; 51-48; 52-49;

53-50; 54-51; 55-52; 56-53.

Group J (11.00 pm)

W vs B: 57-54; 58-55; 59-56;

60-57; 61-58; 62-59; 63-60.

Group K (12.00 am)

W vs B: 64-61; 65-62; 66-63;

67-64; 68

## Hornets outclass Knicks

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina, March 24. (AP): Dell Curry hit 10 of 14 shots and scored 24 points, including three clutch shots in the final minutes, as the Charlotte Hornets beat New York 106-93 last night, sending the Knicks to their fifth consecutive loss.

Armon Gilliam scored 26 points for the Hornets, who won for the third time in four games, but still have the worst record in the NBA at 13-53.

The Knicks rallied from an 83-67 deficit, to close to 89-81 with 4:37 remaining, but Curry hit three consecutive long jumpers to blunt the comeback. Curry hit three of four 3-point attempts in the game.

Patrick Ewing extended his club record of scoring 20 points or more to 26 consecutive games with 32 points. New York, which has been in first place in the Atlantic Division for most of the season, fell into third place with the loss.

### 76ers 115, Kings 99

Hersey Hawkins scored 21 points and sparked a 17-2 fourth-quarter run for Philadelphia against Sacramento.

Charles Barkley added 12 points and 21 rebounds for the 76ers, who improved their home record to 28-5. The Kings, who got 27 points and 11 rebounds from Wayman Tisdale, are now 5-28 on the road.

Philadelphia led 81-73 at the start of the fourth quarter, and Hawkins scored seven points during the 17-2 run that turned the game into a rout.

### Celtics 101, Hawks 98

Boston nearly blew all of a 31-point third-quarter lead as Atlanta's Kenny Smith scored all 19 of his points in the second half, but the Celtics held on.

The Hawks cut a 71-40 deficit with 7:20 left in the third quarter to 99-96 with 46 seconds to play when Smith hit one of two free throws.

Larry Bird, who scored 23 points, sank two foul shots for Boston with 30 seconds remaining, but Alexander Volkov's layup with 23.4 seconds to go made it 101-98.

### Pacers 125, Nets 109

Rik Smits had 30 points and 14 rebounds and Reggie Miller scored 25 points as Indiana handed New Jersey its 22nd consecutive road loss and ninth straight defeat overall.

The Nets, who got 27 points from Sam Bowie, stayed close until late in the fourth quarter, when Chuck Person sparked a 12-0 surge. Person scored 11 of his 22 points in the period.

### Lakers 110, Clippers 102

Magic Johnson scored 28 points as the Los Angeles Lakers reached the 50-win plateau for the 11th consecutive season.

The Clippers' defeat extended their winless streak at the forum to 25 games, including 16 straight since the franchise was moved from San Diego to Los Angeles for the 1984-85 season.

The Clippers, who dropped their fourth in a row despite Charles Smith's 23 points and Benoit Benjamin's 20, got 12 third-quarter points by Winston Garland to whittle a 17-point deficit to 80-71. But they never got closer than eight after that.

### Results

Lakers	102
Orlando	91
Minnesota	99
Philadelphia	99
Indiana	115
Boston	109
Charlotte	106
Dallas	93
Chicago	102
Cleveland	103
95	

Georgia Tech with a controversial buzzer beater in regulation and Dennis Scott sank a short jumper with eight seconds left in overtime as the Yellow Jackets beat Michigan State 81-80 at the Southeast Regional in New Orleans.

Anderson tied the game at 75 with a 19-foot jumper as regulation ended. However, television replays indicated the ball was still in Anderson's hands when the horn sounded.

"I still think we won the game in regulation and lost it in overtime," Michigan State coach Jud Heathcote said.

Georgia Tech (27-6) will play tomorrow against Minnesota (23-8). Kevin Lynch scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half and the Golden Gophers capitalized on Syracuse's free-throw problems for an 82-75 victory.

Loyola was held to half its scoring average against

## Logie hits 98 on return from injury

# England seamers rout W. Indies

PORTE OF SPAIN, Trinidad, March 24. (Reuters): England seamers Devon Malcolm, Gladstone Small and Angus Fraser exploited helpful conditions to send West Indies tumbling on the opening day of the third cricket Test at Queen's Park Oval yesterday.

West Indies, who slumped to 29 for five, were dismissed for 199 after Gus Logie scored a superb 98 on his first appearance of the series after injury.

The touring team, 1-0 up in the five-Test series, completed their successful day when openers Graham Gooch and Wayne Larkins scored 43 without loss from 14 overs before bad light forced an early close.

Malcolm was the most successful bowler, producing his best Test figures of four for 60 from 20 overs, but the innings was effectively undermined by Small and Fraser after Gooch won the toss.

Small ended with two for 41, and Fraser took three for 41, including the wicket of Logie, who was last out after facing 139 balls and hitting 11 fours in a defiant innings that averted a rout.

The pitch, apart from having a surfeit of grass, also had some moisture in it at the start, making Gooch's decision to insert West Indies an automatic one.

With only the 11th ball of the



Devon Malcolm: look four wickets

innings, Malcolm extracted some extra bounce and had Gordon Greenidge caught at short leg with the total five.

The score had not changed three overs later when Desmond Haynes, in his first innings as captain, drove at Small but was caught at third slip without scoring, the ball having moved away from the seam.

The pitch, apart from having a surfeit of grass, also had some moisture in it at the start, making Gooch's decision to insert West Indies an automatic one.

With only the 11th ball of the

back, making the score 79 for five.

Logie, playing in front of his home crowd after missing the first two Tests with a broken finger, now launched a revival, receiving staunch support initially from Carl Hooper in a sixth wicket stand of 63 in 17 overs.

When he had scored 17, Logie was missed by wicketkeeper Jack Russell but made the most of his good fortune to help lift the total to 92 before David Capel had Hooper caught behind for 32 with a beauty that moved away late.

Malcolm quickly disposed of debutant Ezra Moseley for a duck with the aid of a superb, diving catch by Russell, and in his next over also sent back Curly Ambrose.

West Indies were then 103 for eight but Ian Bishop survived for 101 minutes in a ninth wicket stand of 74 with Logie which ended when Bishop was bowled by Malcolm for 16.

Logie was on 87 when last man Courtney Walsh joined him and the Trinidadian had moved to within two of his century when he tried to cut Fraser but failed to keep the ball down and was well caught by Allan Lamb in the gully.

The pitch had lost much of its life by the time England batted.

## Hadlee available for tour of England

WELLINGTON, March 24. (Reuters): Richard Hadlee and New Zealand captain John Wright have ended weeks of speculation by declaring their availability for New Zealand's cricket tour of England, starting in May.

Hadlee, the only player to have taken 400 Test wickets, said on the eve of his one-day testimonial series against a World XI: "I've got to hang on in there for another three months."

The pace bowler said his earlier retirement announcement had left the door open for the England tour because he had announced only that the New Zealand-Australia Test which ended on Monday was his last home appearance for his country.

"I've therefore considered it and have decided that the tour of England is on."

Wright, scorer of three centuries in four Tests this season, said his good form convinced him he should go to England.

"I've been on three tours to England and I thought that was it, I'd never go back. I definitely wouldn't have if I hadn't played this season," he said.

■ Ian Botham vowed yesterday he will get back his place in the England cricket team after a two-year absence because of a back injury.

"I'm fit and my back injury has now completely healed," he said during a speaking tour of the Gulf.

"I'm raring to go. I'm determined to rega-

ing my place in the English team," he said.

The 34-year-old former England Test captain has been getting back to peak fitness.

Botham is one of the world's finest all-rounders, with 373 wickets and 5,057 runs in Tests matches to his credit.

Since he has been sidelined, his Test wicket record has been eclipsed by New Zealand's Richard Hadlee with 396.

"I don't mind the challenges from the younger all-rounders in the English team. I thrive on challenges," Botham said.

When he returns to England next week, he will join his county club, Worcestershire, for pre-season training in the Bahamas.

## Hoch takes one-stroke lead

ORLANDO, Fla., March 24. (Reuters): Scott Hoch birdied the 16th and 17th holes to take a one-stroke lead after two rounds of the \$900,000 Orlando Invitational men's golf tournament yesterday.

Hoch, who has a home here alongside the 18th fairway, had a round of four-under-par 68 for a total of seven-under-par 137 at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club and Lodge.

Corey Pavin, Larry Nelson, Jay Don Blake and Billy Andrade were tied at six-under-par 136. Curtis Strange, Tom Watson, Billy Mayfair and Australia's Craig Parry were next in line at 139.

Nick Faldo of Britain, after a round of 67, and Jose-Maria Olazabal were among those tied at 141. Greg Norman of Australia was at 142.

### Jones ahead

PHOENIX, Ariz., March 24. (Reuters): American Rosie Jones birdied the last hole to pull ahead of contrywomen Krisi Albers and Donna White by one stroke after the second round of the \$500,000 Turquoise Classic women's golf tournament yesterday.

Jones, with five birdies on the day, recorded a three-under-par 70 on the 6,514-yard Moon Valley Country Club course. Albers shot a 70 and White a two-under-par 71.

"I am proud of myself because I was tough and I could hang in there," Jones said. "It was not a very pretty round. But I'll take it."

White, who returned to the tour just last week after major surgery, recorded five birdies and three bogeys in her round.

### Montgomerie moves clear

FLORENCE, Italy, March 24. (Reuters): Britain's Colin Montgomerie charged into a two-shot lead in the Volvo Open yesterday by adding a second round 64 to his opening 65.

The former Walker Cup amateur, bidding to repeat his initial European Tour triumph in last year's Portuguese Open, missed only one green as he carded a 15-under-par total of 129.

Overnight leader Russell Clayton of Britain dropped to a 68 after his Ugolino course record 63 and was joined in second place by Australian Peter

O'Malley, round in 64, and Briton Roger Chapman, 66.

Montgomerie, a professional since 1987, started the tournament in 10th place on the Order of Merit after a run of poor finishes.

"What's changed everything is studying a video of my victory in Portugal. I've been hooking the ball badly and I spotted I'd got my hands about an inch too far forward at address," he said.

"Since straightening out my long game my confidence has come back and I feel as if I can win again."

## Queensland put in a spin

SYDNEY, March 24. (Reuters): Queensland's chances of winning the Sheffield Shield cricket competition for the first time were destroyed by New South Wales spinners Greg Matthews and Adrian Tucker on the second day of the final today.

After dismissing New South Wales for 360, Queensland were reduced to 91 for eight in their first innings with the spinners sharing a six-wicket haul.

In only his third Shield match Tucker took three for 12 in a seven-over spell which saw Australian captain Allan Border, Craig McDermott and Mike Kasprowicz fall to his leg spin.

At one stage he was on a hat-trick. Dink Tazelaar survived his first ball but became Matthews' third victim when he was trapped lbw for ought.

Matthews, bowling from the end where he took seven for 50 against Tasmania earlier this month, finished with three for 25.

Queensland opener Geoff Foley was taken to hospital after being hit in the helmet by a bouncer from fast bowler Wayne Holdsworth. He retired hurt after complaining of double vision.

## Loyola and Minnesota reach NCAA finals

NEW YORK, March 24. (AP): Loyola Marymount survived a slowdown and Minnesota finished fast last night to reach their first NCAA Regional finals. Georgia Tech and UNLV, teams that have been there before, also reached the final eight with tense, tight victories.

Kenny Anderson saved Georgia Tech with a controversial buzzer beater in regulation and Dennis Scott sank a short jumper with eight seconds left in overtime as the Yellow Jackets beat Michigan State 81-80 at the Southeast Regional in New Orleans.

Anderson tied the game at 75 with a 19-foot jumper as regulation ended. However, television replays indicated the ball was still in Anderson's hands when the horn sounded.

"I still think we won the game in regulation and lost it in overtime," Michigan State coach Jud Heathcote said.

Georgia Tech (27-6) will play tomorrow against Minnesota (23-8). Kevin Lynch scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half and the Golden Gophers capitalized on Syracuse's free-throw problems for an 82-75 victory.

Loyola was held to half its scoring average against



Rebels' Larry Johnson (centre) lights a double coverage for a shot at the basket. (Reuters wirephoto)



Willie Burton (left) of Minnesota drives against Billy Duane of Syracuse. (Reuters wirephoto)

tomorrow. All-American Larry Johnson had 20 points and 13 rebounds as the Runnin' Rebels ended Ball State's season 69-67.

Minnesota took the lead for good, 61-60, on a 3-pointer by Lynch with 9:22 to play. He scored 12 of the Gophers' 13 points as they went from a 54-53 deficit to a 66-62 lead with 8:12 left.

It was the second straight bitter defeat at the Superdome for Lynch with 9:22 to play. He scored 12 of the Gophers' 13

points as they went from a 54-53 deficit to a 66-62 lead with 8:12 left.

Logie, playing in front of his home crowd after missing the first two Tests with a broken finger, now launched a revival, receiving staunch support initially from Carl Hooper in a sixth wicket stand of 63 in 17 overs.

Although Larkins was struck a glancing blow on the helmet by Bishop, who also had a confident lbw appeal against Gooch turned down.

Haynes, leading the side in the absence of the unfit Viv Richards, turned to the off-spin of Hooper, who had Larkins dropped by the West Indian skipper at first slip in what proved to be the last over of the day.

Hooper quickly disposed of debutant Ezra Moseley for a duck with the aid of a superb, diving catch by Russell, and in his next over also sent back Curly Ambrose.

West Indies were then 103 for eight but Ian Bishop survived for 101 minutes in a ninth wicket stand of 74 with Logie which ended when Bishop was bowled by Malcolm for 16.

Logie was on 87 when last man Courtney

## SPORTS

## Sanchez continues her climb

HOUSTON, March 24. (AP): Arantxa Sanchez Vicario is running out of runs to climb on the women's professional tennis ladder.

She turned pro as a compact 14-year-old and finished 1986 as the 124th ranked women's tennis player in the world.

The hard-hitting Spaniard moved up to No. 47 in 1987, to No. 18 in 1988 and reached No. 5 in 1989, a year in which, at age 17, she became the youngest French Open winner.

She will be looking for an even higher ranking in the \$25,000 Virginia Slims of Houston tournament, beginning Monday at the Westside Tennis Club in this Texas City.

"When you are trying to get to the top you concentrate on everything," Sanchez said. "I need more work on my serve and volley. I'm not very tall but I need to be able to charge the net more."

Sanchez runs, lifts weights and does aerobics.

"I already had pretty strong legs. I used to play soccer with the boys," she said.

Sanchez charged onto the American tennis scene in 1986 and made her US debut against Martina Navratilova, who won 7-6, 6-4.

Sanchez is 0-4 in career matches against Navratilova and will again be pursuing her this week.

Navratilova, who has entered three Virginia Slims events this year and won them all, is top seeded and will be seeking her 150th career tournament victory.

Zina Garrison of Houston, ranked No. 4 in the world and playing with local crowd support, is the second seed.

Sanchez, the third seed, last played in Houston two years ago.

Then she lost again to Navratilova, who has won the Houston event six times, most recently in 1985, and now is rated No. 2 in the world.

The highlight of Sanchez's career was her upset of Steffi Graf in the finals of last year's French Open.

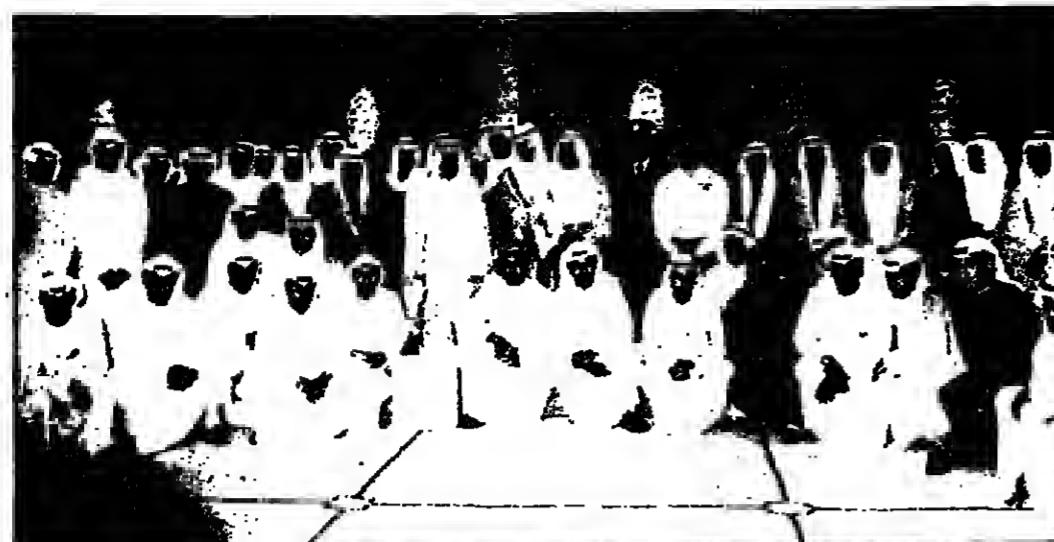
She expects to be more competitive in 1990.

"I'm a lot more experienced now, all my shots are better and I'm older, so it's different than two years ago," she said.

Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria is seeded fourth, followed by Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union, Laura Gidelemeister of Argentina, Sandra Cecchini of Italy and Gretchen Majers of the United States.



Arantxa Sanchez



Amir receives Kuwait national soccer team

HH the Amir yesterday received members of the Higher Organising Committee of the 10th Arab Gulf Cup football tournament along with officials and members of the Kuwait national soccer team. Kuwait won the tournament which was held at the Peace and Friendship Stadium earlier this month. The reception was



attended by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed and Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, Kuwaiti Football Association and Kuwait Olympic Council chairman and also head of the Higher Organising Committee.

## Skah and Jennings triumph

AIX-LES-BAINS, France, March 24. (Reuter): Khalid Skah of Morocco trumped the Kenyan aces of cross country running to win the world title today.

He attacked a Kenyan pack of front-runners on the last bend of the 12.2-km course and held on in a close final sprint to give his country its first win in the event for more than 20 years.

Moses Tanui finished second in the same time of 34 minutes 21 seconds with Julius Korir, another Kenyan, third one second behind.

Four Kenyans finished in the top six, but John Ngugi, winner for the past four years and aiming for a record fifth title, was not among them.

He took the lead briefly after 10 minutes and delighted the crowd by cleanly clearing a hedge hurdler-style as the others stepped on it in more conventional fashion.

But Ngugi, who started training for the race only two weeks ago after resting for a month after the Commonwealth Games, ran out of steam soon afterwards and dropped out of contention.

The women's 6-km race was won by American Lynn Jennings, who went away on her own early on to finish 12 seconds ahead of Portugal's Alberta Dias. Elena Romanova of the Soviet Union was third.

It was a first win for Jennings, who had placed in the first six at the last four world championships.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Olympic chief

BARCELONA, Spain, March 24. (Reuter): Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch is seeking an urgent meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to sort out problems in preparations for the 1992 Games.

## Dutch squad

AMSTERDAM, March 24. (Reuter): The Dutch squad for next Wednesday's friendly in the Soviet Union has been hit by the withdrawal of AC Milan's Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard. John Bosman and Graeme Rix of KV Mechelen will also be absent, a Dutch Soccer Association spokesman said yesterday.

## 7-a-side football

BOMBAY Boys will organise its 10th Annual one-day 7-a-side football festival on April 26 at Sion Ground. For further details please contact Deepak, Simon and Anthony Carvalho on Sion Ground.

## Cecon triumphs

PLANICA, Yugoslavia, March 24. (AP): Italy's Roberto Cecon won the World Cup ski jumping event today ahead of Arl Pekka Nikkola of Finland, whose second place earned him this season's overall title.

## 117m players

ZURICH, Switzerland, March 24. (AP): Fifa's world ruling body of soccer, has 117 million registered players around the world, with almost half coming from Asia, general secretary Joseph Blatter said today.

## Dutch coach

AMSTERDAM, March 24. (Reuter): Belaguered Dutch soccer coach Thijis Libregts is planning an injunction against the Dutch Soccer Association (KNVB) if they attempt to sack him before the World Cup finals, a KNVB spokesman said today.

## Reports denied

ZURICH, Switzerland, March 24. (AP): Fifa today denied reports that the World Cup teams from Ireland, the Netherlands and Egypt would only be allowed on Sardinia on match days when they play England in an attempt to avoid potential trouble with hooligans.

## W. German soccer

BONN, March 24. (Reuter): Results of the W. German First Division soccer matches played today:

Hamburg	0	St Pauli	0
Bochum	0	Bayern M	0
CFB Stuttgart	0	Kaiserslautern	1
Karlsruhe	0	Nuremberg	0
Cologne	1	Borussia D	0
Waldhof M	0	Werder B	1
Bayer U	0	Fortuna D	0
Eintracht F	0	Bayer L	3
Homburg	1	Borussia M	3

## Ireland win

DUBLIN, March 24. (Reuter): Ireland beat Wales 14-8 (halftime 10-0) in the last Five Nations Rugby Union Championship match today.

## BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Sheraton Bridge Club game played on Friday: N/S

1. The Farahs
2. Dina Mathey and Dr Adel E/W
3. D. Pereira & Dr Parikh E/W
1. Dr Reddy and Lata L
2. Mrs Sapre and K. Simon
3. Aurora and Nizar

## Agassi and Edberg reach final



KEY BISCAYNE, Florida, March 24. (AP): Andre Agassi beat Jay Berger 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 in the semifinals of the International Players Championships. The verbal volleys afterwards concerned not the match, but Agassi's withdrawal earlier this month from Davis Cup.

Agassi has criticised coach Tom Gorman's handling of the US team.

"A guy like Andre Agassi doesn't have too much to complain about," Berger said. "The guy's making all the money he can possibly want. He's getting tonnes of credit. I think it's a little bit of a shame that he just doesn't go play Davis Cup."

But Agassi said he is devoting all of his energy to the International Players Championships. The No. 3 seed will play in tomorrow's finals against No. 3 Stefan Edberg, who swept No. 15 Emilio Sanchez 6-1, 7-5 last night.

## ARAB TIMES

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## Detroit Tigers perform stretching exercises during a work out at spring training. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Baseball umpires refuse to work

PHILADELPHIA, March 24, (AP): Major League baseball umpires said yesterday they would not work during spring training to protest the way games were rescheduled after the owners' lockout of the players ended.

Exhibition games are to start Monday and opening day is April 9. The owners' lockout delayed the beginning of spring training for a month and pushed back the start of the regular season by a week.

Ricke Phillips, head of the Umpires Union, said the differences between the owners and umpires could be resolved "in a half hour." However, he said, he was still filing an unfair labour practices charge with the National Labour Relations Board.

The umpires are upset that they were not consulted about changing the schedule, Phillips said. The baseball League already has re-scheduled some games for previously open dates, and umpires are worried that will mean fewer days off.

"We won't disrupt spring training games. We don't consider this a strike. It's not a boycott," Phillips said. "It's a refusal on the part of the umpires to be recalled."

Phillips said issues to be settled included compensation for cancelled spring training games and for increased expenses incurred by umpires in the compressed spring training schedule.